

Engineer's Mini-Notebook

555 Timer
IC Circuits



Forrest M. Mims III

Radio Shack

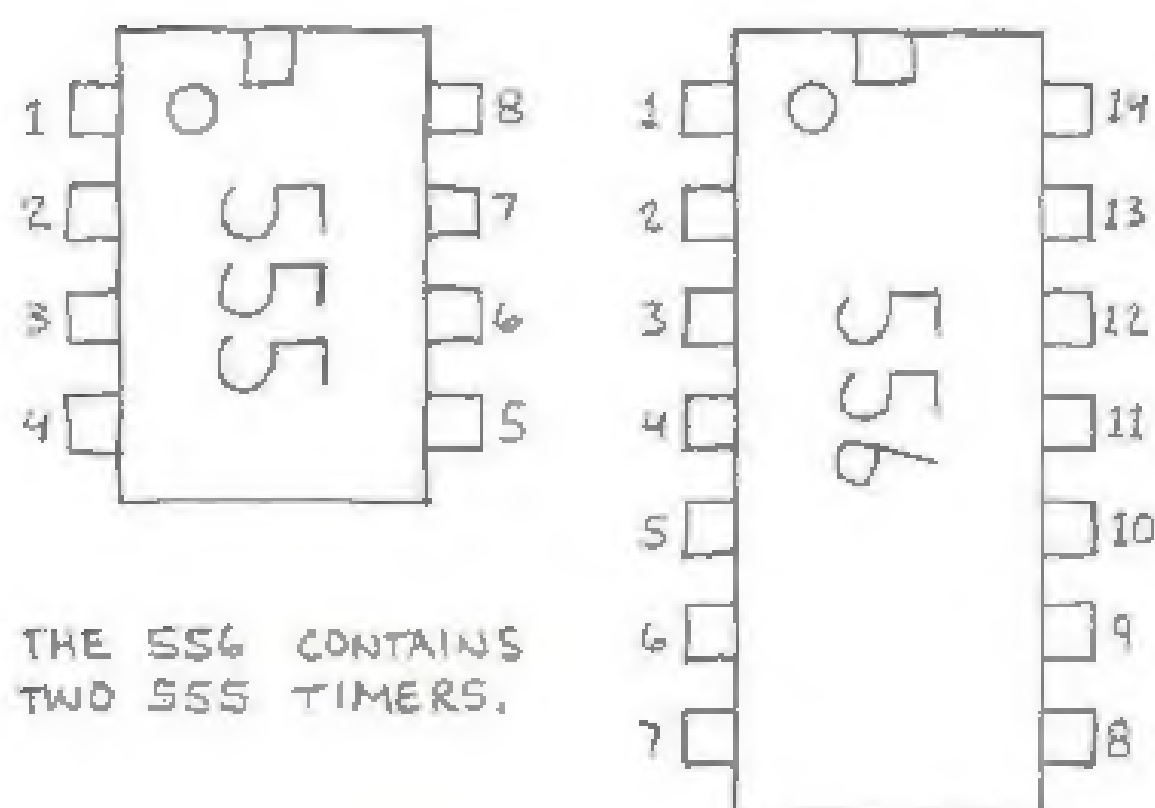
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555/556 PIN OUTLINES



FUNCTION	555	556 (1)	556 (2)
GROUND	1	7	7
TRIGGER	2	6	8
OUTPUT	3	5	9
RESET	4	4	10
CONTROL V	5	3	11
THRESHOLD	6	2	12
DISCHARGE	7	1	13
Vcc	8	14	14

555 SPECIFICATIONS¹

SUPPLY VOLTAGE (Vcc)	4.5 TO 15 V
SUPPLY CURRENT (Vcc = +5V)	3 TO 6 mA
SUPPLY CURRENT (Vcc = +15V)	10 TO 15 mA
OUTPUT CURRENT (MAXIMUM)	200 mA
POWER DISSIPATION	600 mW
OPERATING TEMPERATURE	0 TO 70°C

¹ VALUES SHOWN APPLY TO NE555.

ENGINEER'S MINI-NOTEBOOK 555 CIRCUITS

BY
FORREST M. MIMS, III

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THANKS IN ADVANCE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WRITE! BUT PLEASE REMEMBER WE WILL BE UNABLE TO RESPOND PERSONALLY.

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INTRODUCTION

THE 555 TIMER IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND VERSATILE INTEGRATED CIRCUITS EVER PRODUCED. IT INCLUDES 23 TRANSISTORS, 2 DIODES AND 16 RESISTORS ON A SILICON CHIP INSTALLED IN AN 8-PIN MINI DUAL-IN-LINE PACKAGE (DIP). THE 556 IS A 14-PIN DIP THAT COMBINES TWO 555'S ON A SINGLE CHIP. ALSO AVAILABLE ARE ULTRA-LOW POWER VERSIONS OF THE 555. THE 555 HAS TWO PRINCIPLE OPERATING MODES:

MONOSTABLE MODE - IN THIS MODE THE 555 FUNCTIONS AS A "ONE-SHOT." APPLICATIONS INCLUDE TIMERS, MISSING PULSE DETECTION, BOUNCEFREE SWITCHES, TOUCH SWITCHES, ETC.

ASTABLE MODE - THE 555 CAN OPERATE AS AN OSCILLATOR. USES INCLUDE LED AND LAMP FLASHERS, PULSE GENERATION, LOGIC CLOCKS, TONE GENERATION, SECURITY ALARMS, ETC.

CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY TIPS

BUILD TEST VERSIONS OF CIRCUITS ON PLASTIC SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD BEFORE MAKING THEM PERMANENT. IN MONOSTABLE CIRCUITS WHERE FALSE TRIGGERING MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS, TIE PIN 5 TO GROUND VIA A 0.1 μ F CAPACITOR. IF POWER LEADS ARE LONG OR IF A CIRCUIT SEEMS TO MALFUNCTION, PLACE A 0.1 μ F CAPACITOR ACROSS PINS 8 AND 1. A 1 μ F CAPACITOR MAY ALSO BE NECESSARY. BE SURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH VALUES OF TIMING RESISTORS AND CAPACITORS. THE BASIC CIRCUITS ON PP 6-7 EXPLAIN THE ROLE THESE COMPONENTS PLAY. REMEMBER THAT THE 556 REPLACES TWO 555'S. LOW-POWER VERSIONS OF THE 555 MAY REQUIRE SOME REVISIONS TO STANDARD 555 CIRCUITS. FOR MORE TIPS, SEE THE RADIO SHACK BOOK "GETTING STARTED IN ELECTRONICS."

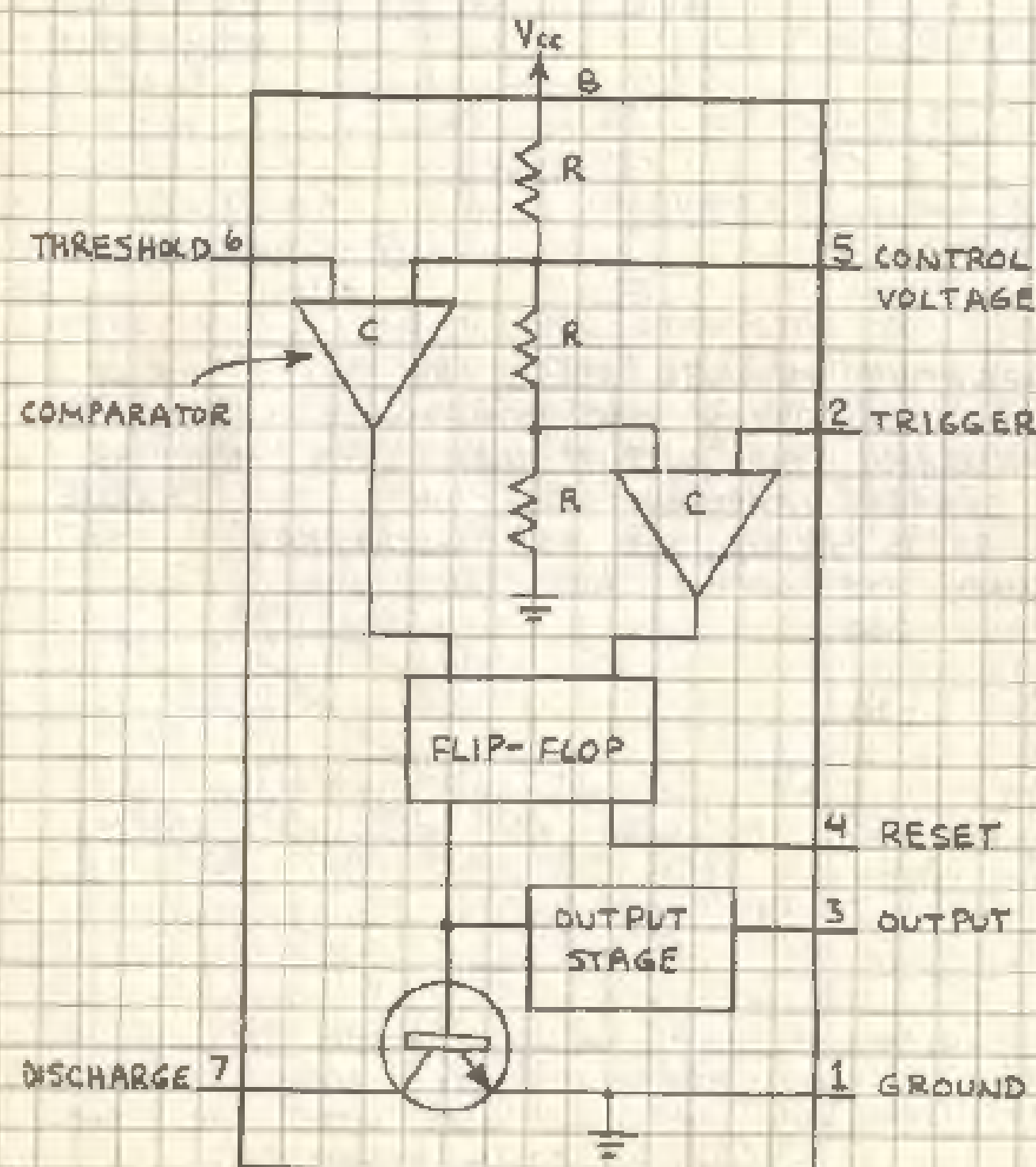
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555 SPECIFICATIONS¹

SUPPLY VOLTAGE (V_{cc})	4.5 TO 15 V
SUPPLY CURRENT ($V_{cc} = +5V$) ²	3 TO 6 mA
SUPPLY CURRENT ($V_{cc} = +15V$) ²	10 TO 15 mA
OUTPUT CURRENT	200 mA (MAXIMUM)
POWER DISSIPATION	600 mW
OPERATING TEMPERATURE	0 TO 70°C

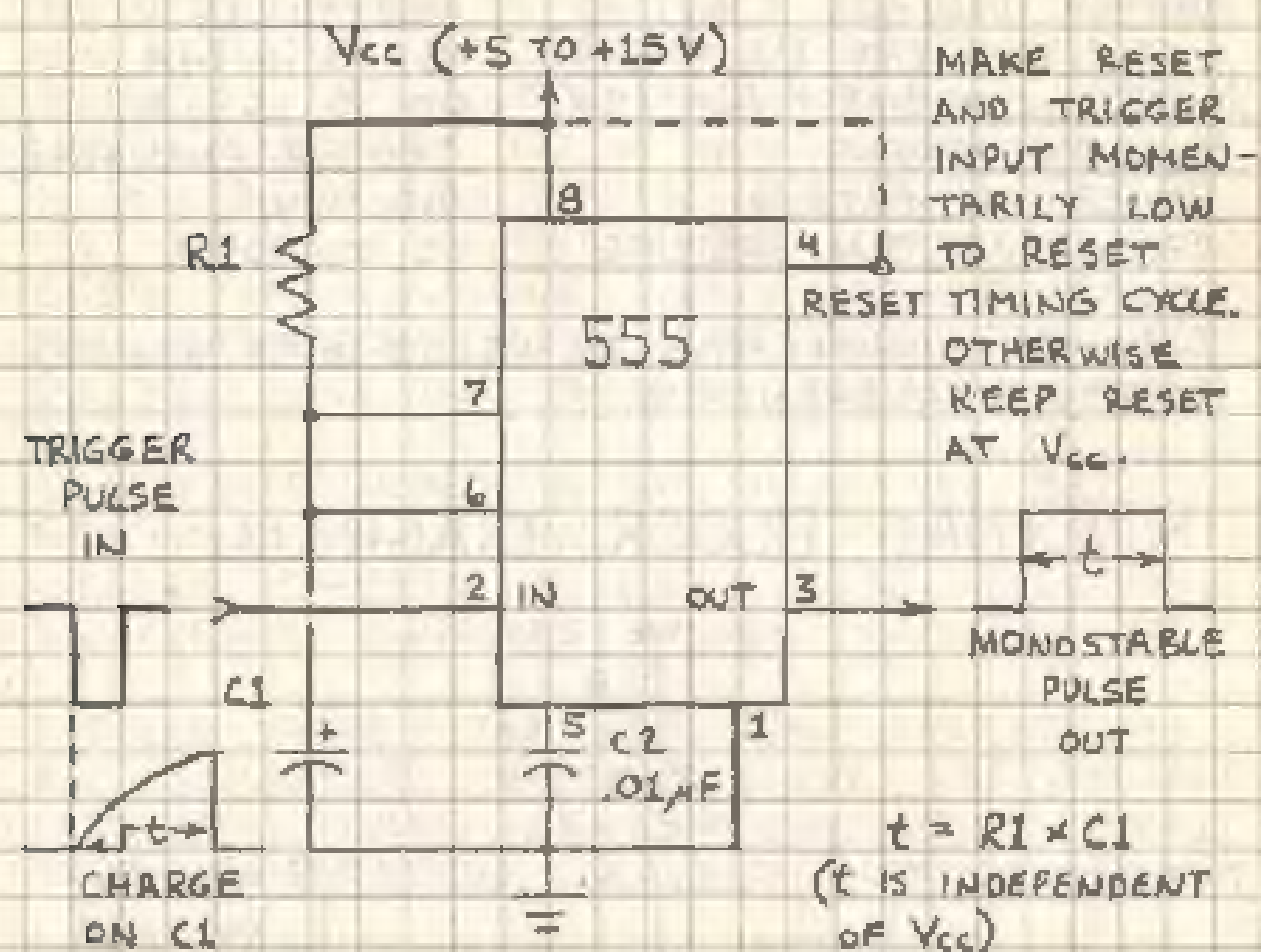
1 VALUES SHOWN APPLY TO NE555 (8 PIN MINI-DIP)
2 OUTPUT CURRENT = 0.

INTERNAL BLOCK DIAGRAM

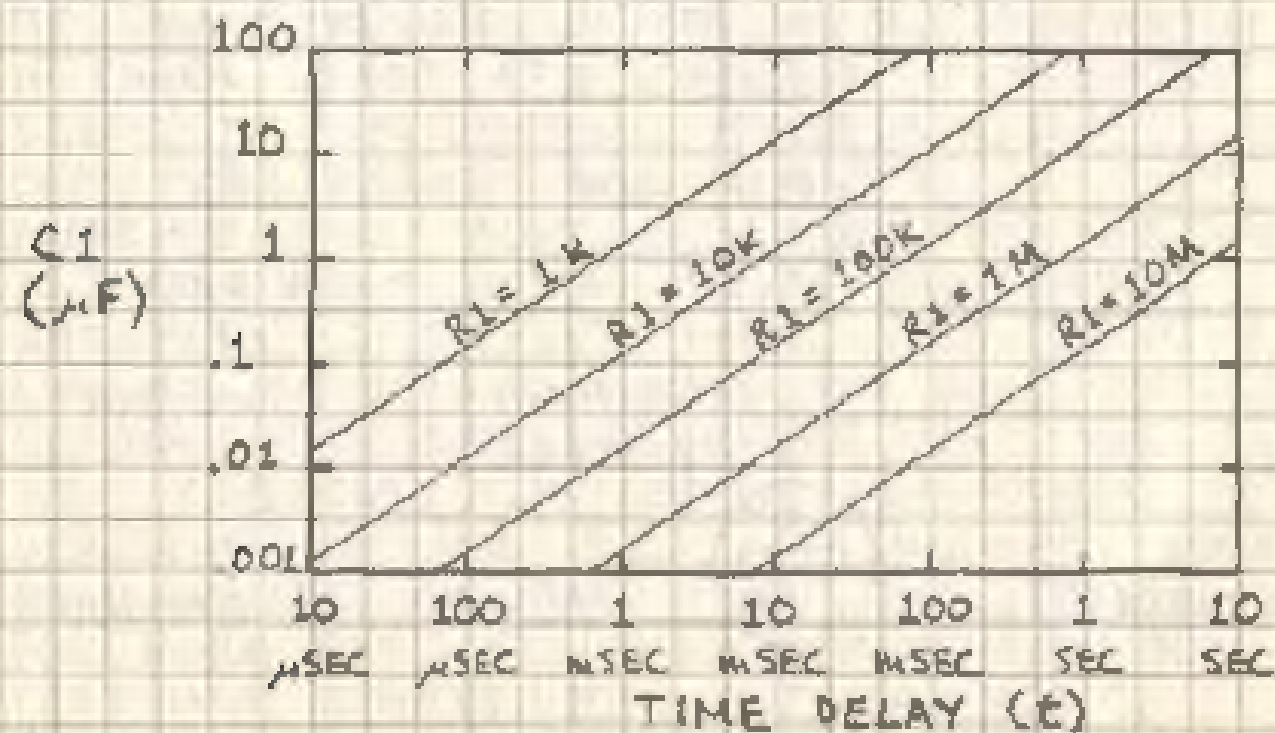


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BASIC MONOSTABLE CIRCUIT

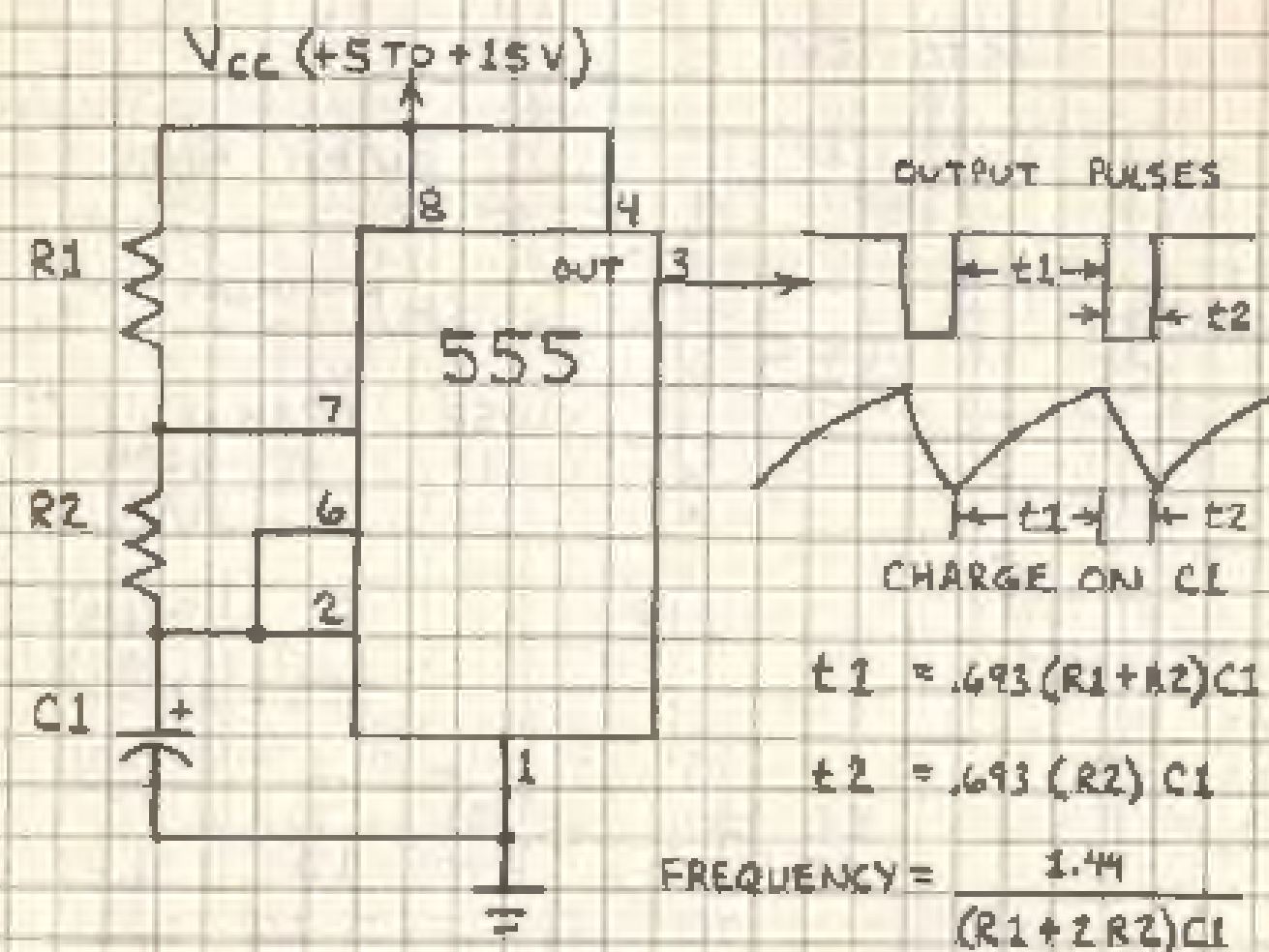


A NEGATIVE TRIGGER PULSE AT PIN 2 TURNS OFF A TRANSISTOR THAT OTHERWISE SHORTS C_1 TO GROUND. THE OUTPUT THEN GOES HIGH AS C_1 CHARGES THROUGH R_1 . WHEN THE CHARGE ON C_1 IS $2/3 V_{cc}$, THE 555 DISCHARGES C_1 TO GROUND. THE OUTPUT THEN GOES LOW.

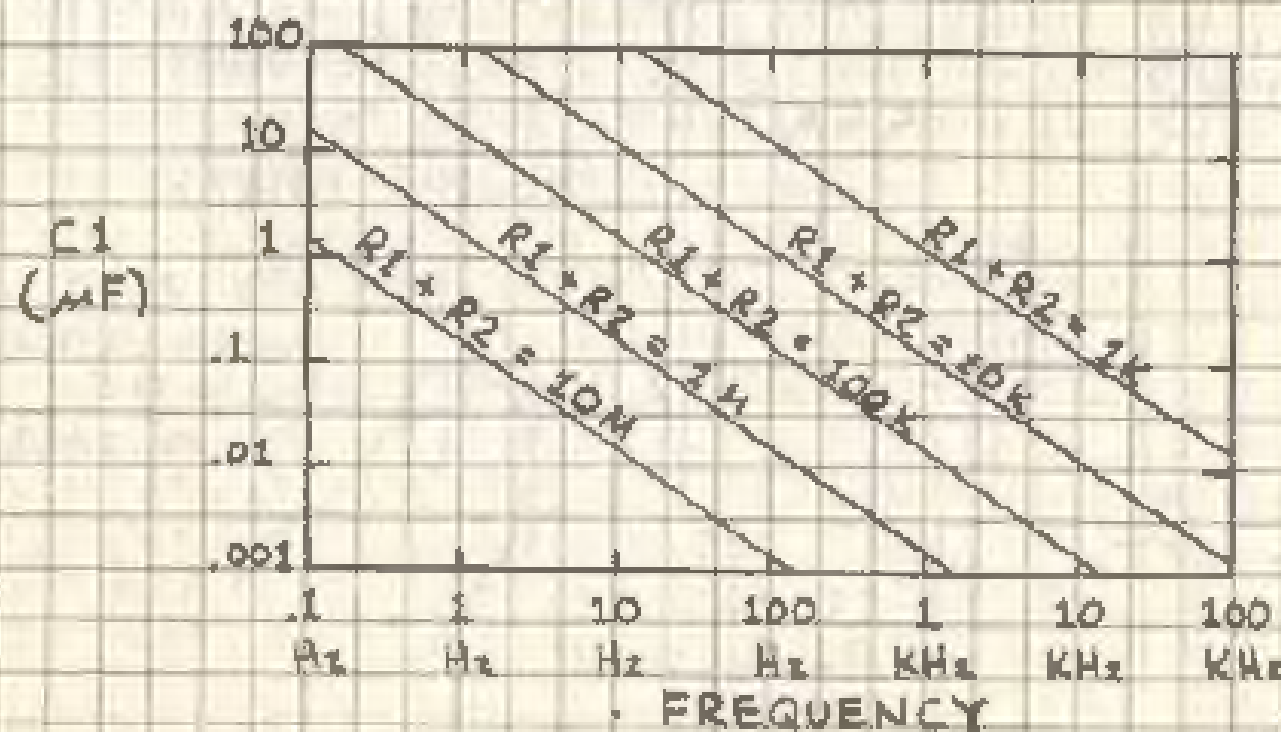


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BASIC ASTABLE CIRCUIT

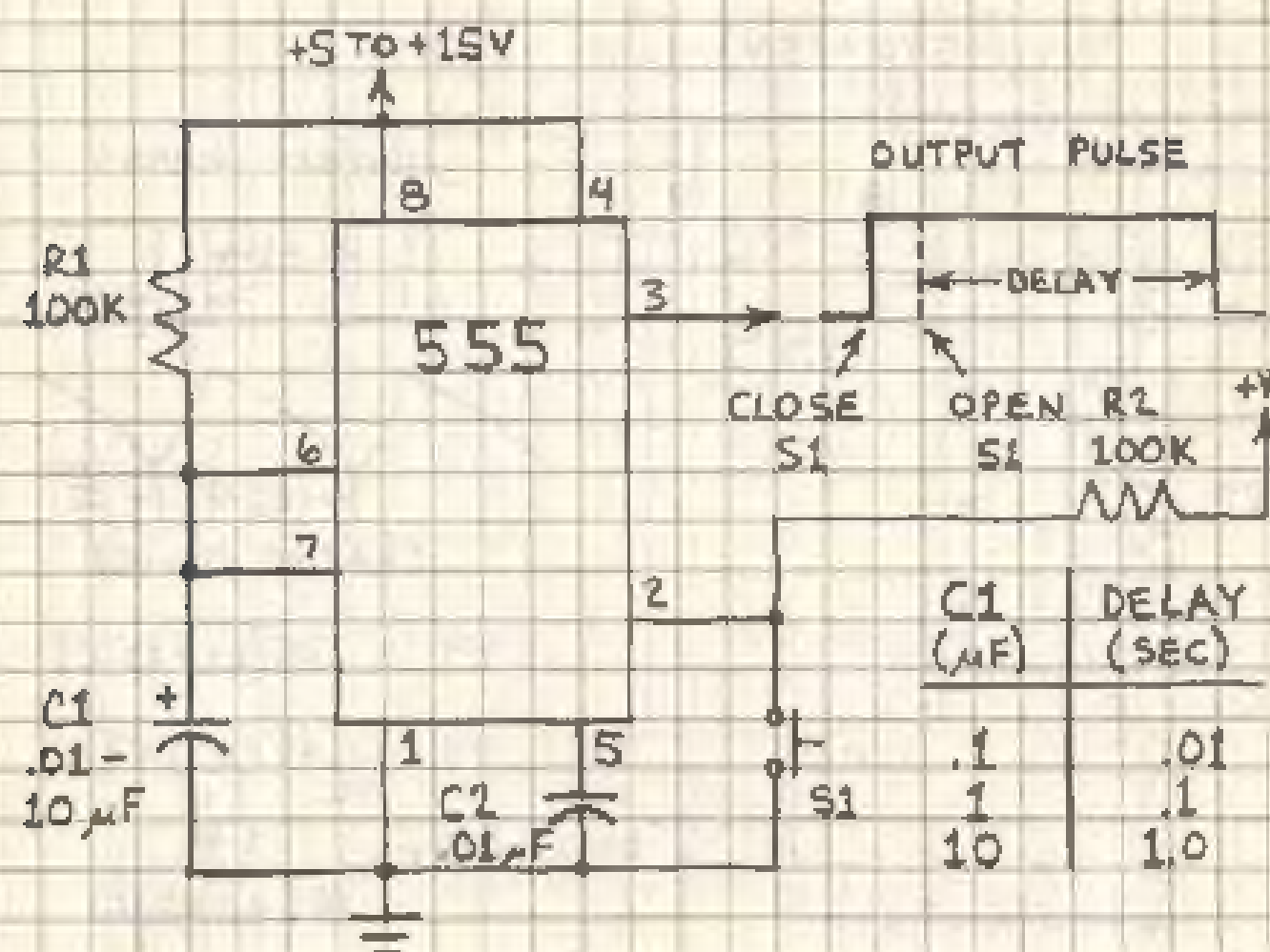


HERE PINS 2 AND 6 ARE CONNECTED SO THE CIRCUIT WILL TRIGGER ITSELF EACH TIMING CYCLE, THEREBY FUNCTIONING AS AN OSCILLATOR. C_1 CHARGES THROUGH R_1 AND R_2 BUT DISCHARGES THROUGH R_2 . THE CHARGE ON C_1 RANGES FROM $1/3 V_{cc}$ TO $2/3 V_{cc}$. THE OSCILLATION FREQUENCY IS INDEPENDENT OF V_{cc} .

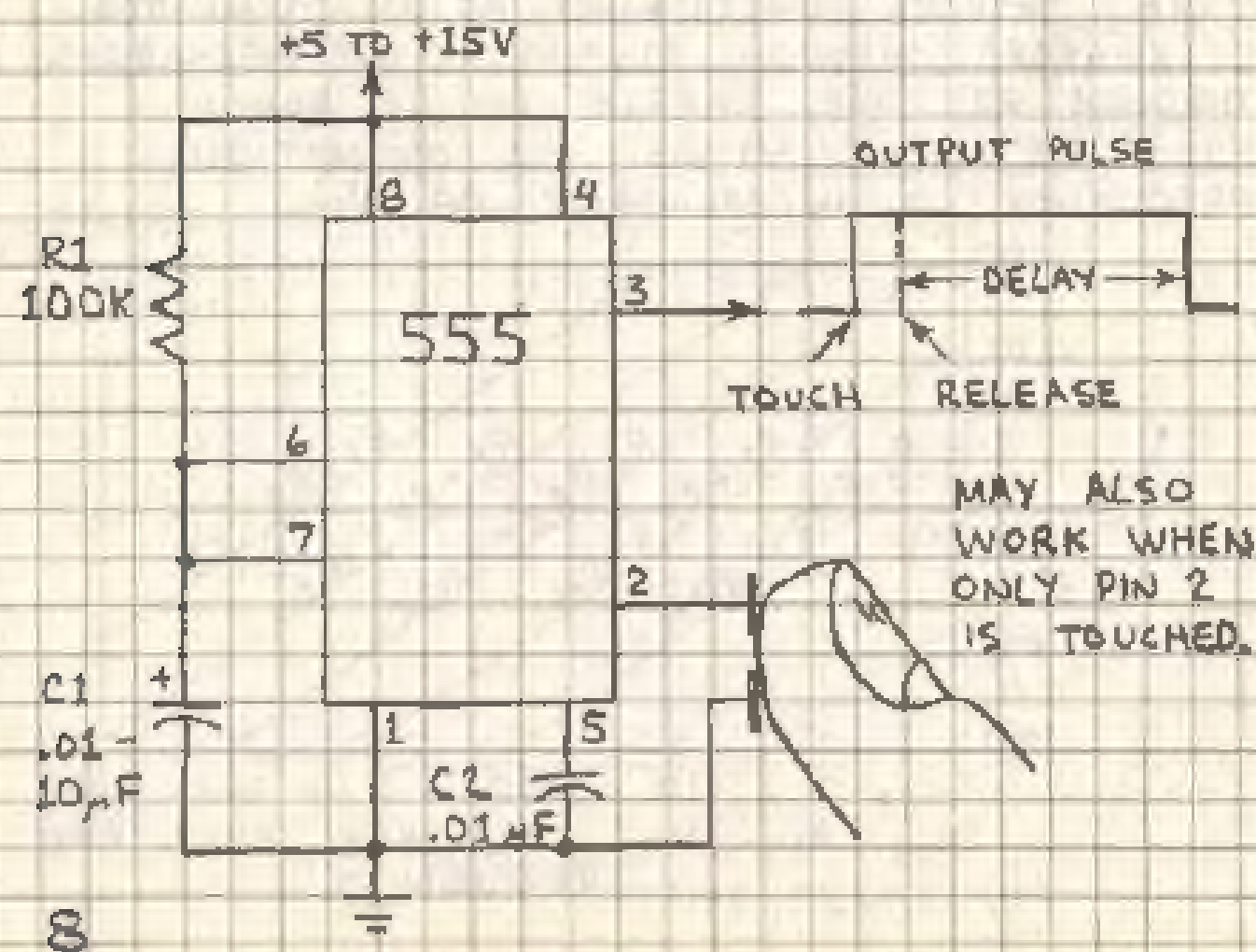


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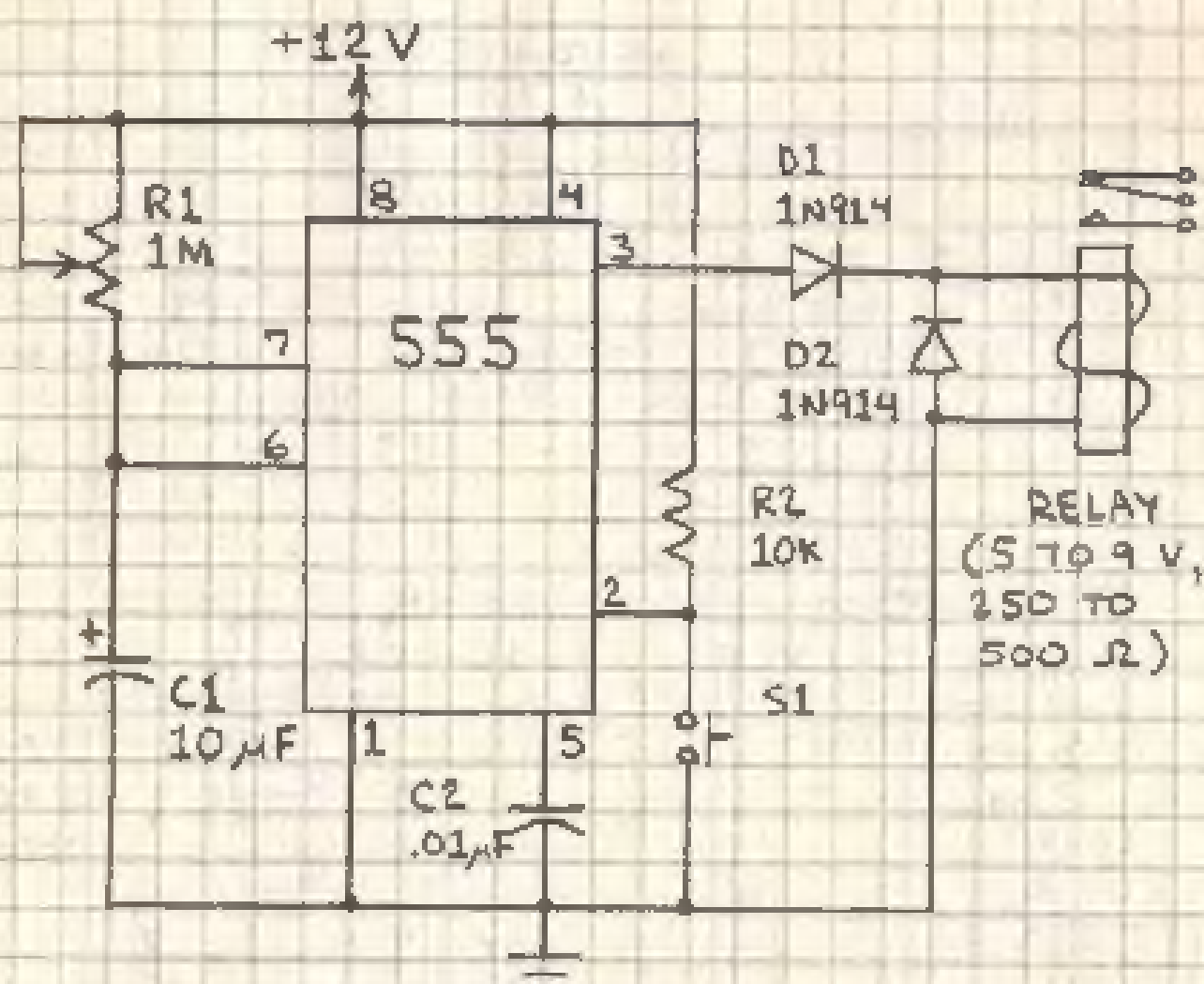
BOUNCEFREE SWITCH



TOUCH-ACTIVATED SWITCH



TIMER PLUS RELAY

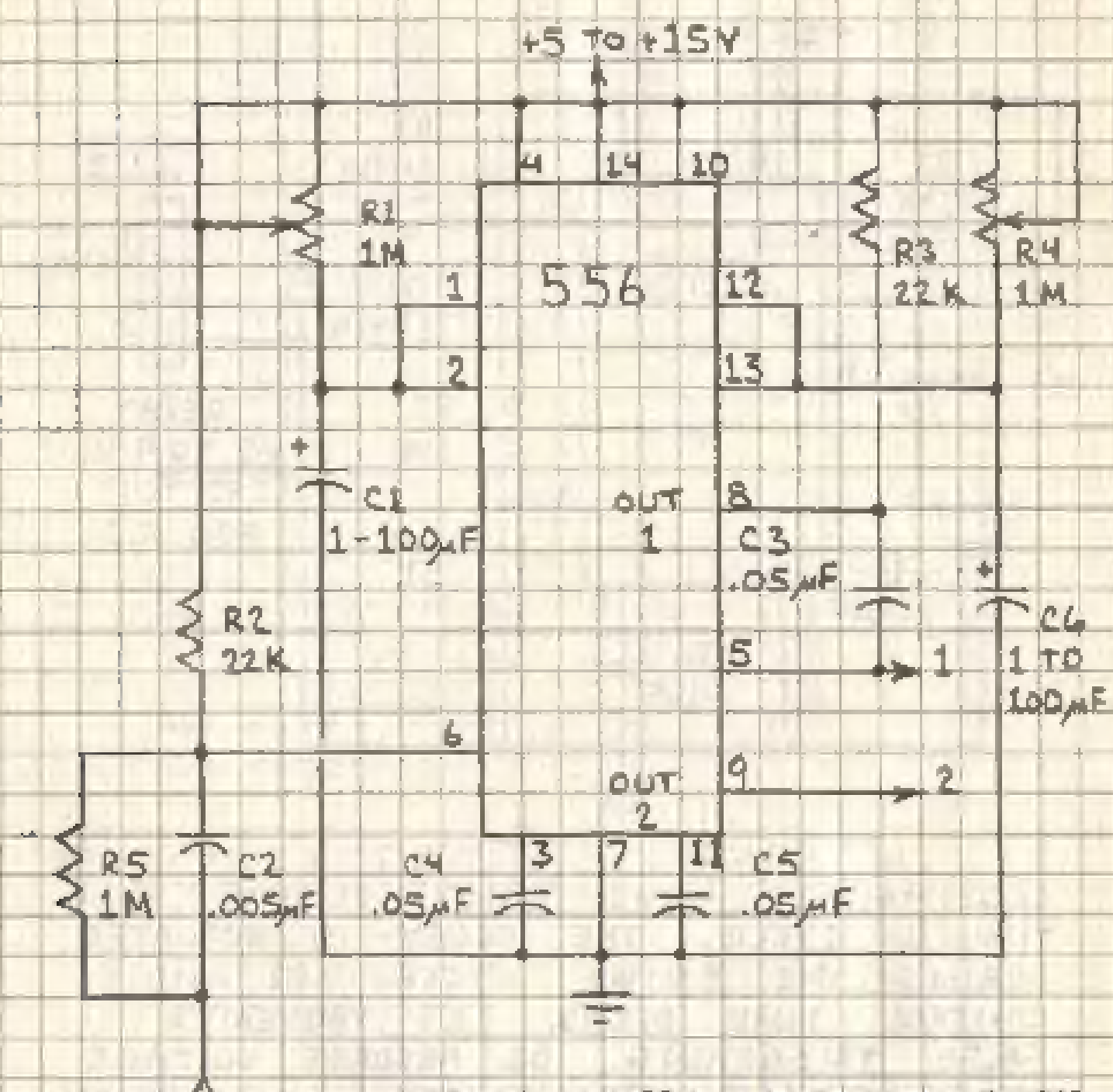


CLOSING S1 MOMENTARILY BEGINS A TIMING CYCLE. THE RELAY IS ACTUATED DURING THE ENTIRE CYCLE. R1 AND C1 CONTROL TIME DELAY. C2 PREVENTS FALSE TRIGGERING. D2 ABSORBS VOLTAGE GENERATED BY RELAY COIL WHEN RELAY IS SWITCHED OFF. USE CAUTION WHEN CONNECTING LINE-POWERED DEVICES TO RELAY CONNECTIONS.

TYPICAL DELAYS (SECONDS)

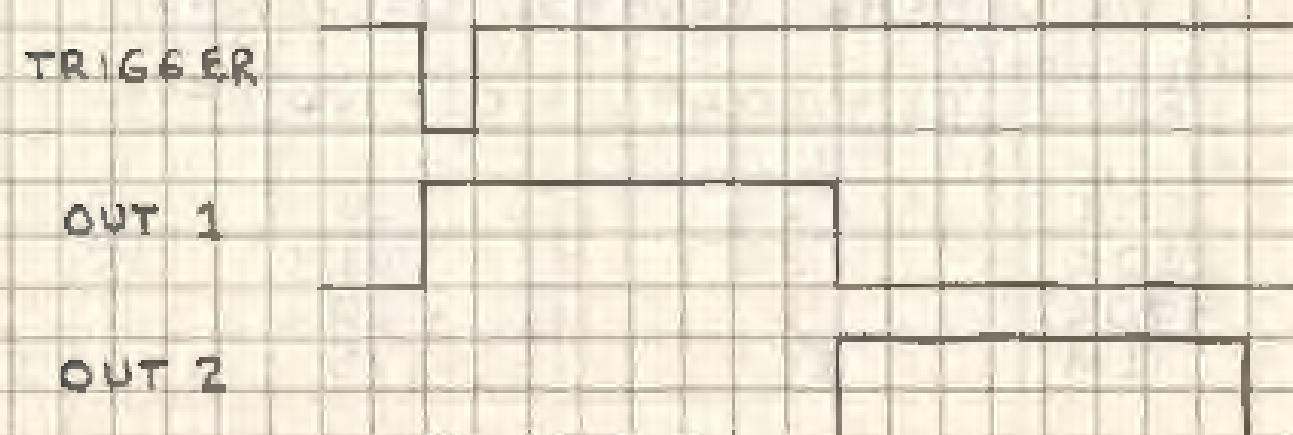
R1	C1 = 20µF	C1 = 100µF
100K	2	16
220K	3	33
470K	6	70
1M	15	175

CASCADED TIMER



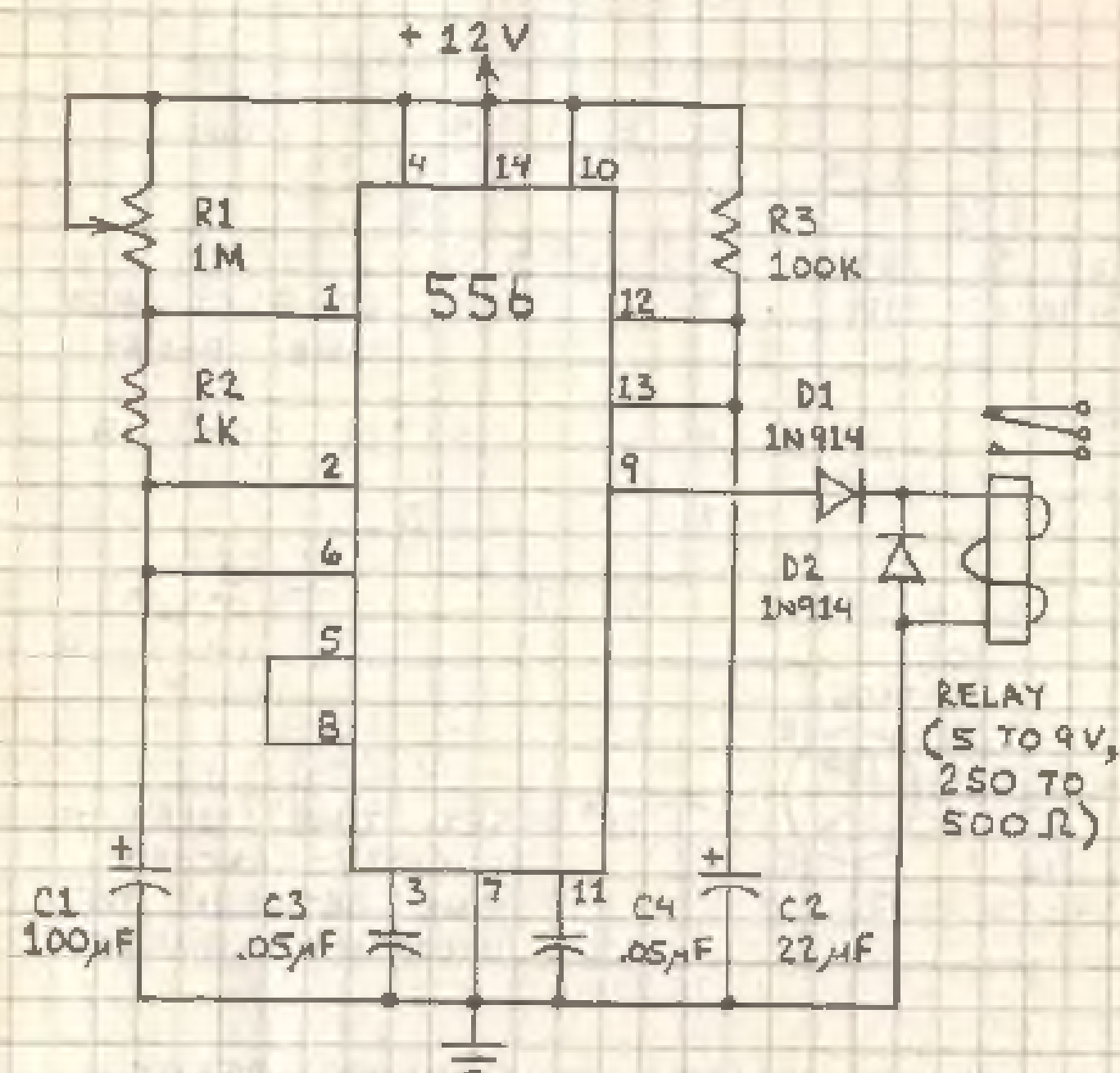
TRIGGER IN

BOTH TIMERS ARE CONNECTED
IN THEIR ONE-SHOT MODE.
GROUNDING THE TRIGGER
INPUT STARTS TIMER 1 WHICH
THEN STARTS TIMER 2.

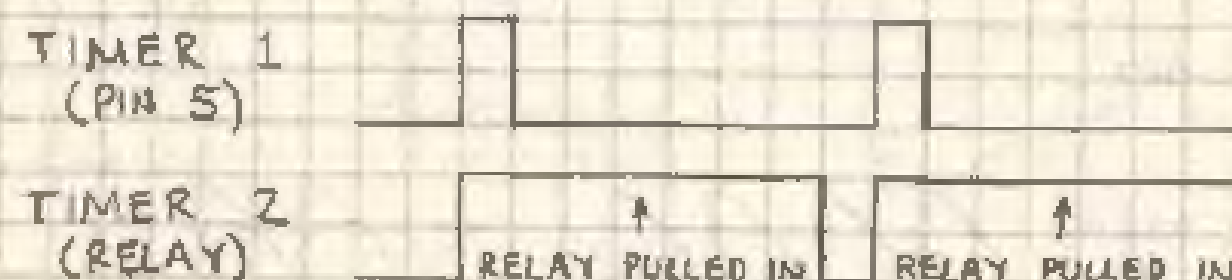


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INTERVALOMETER

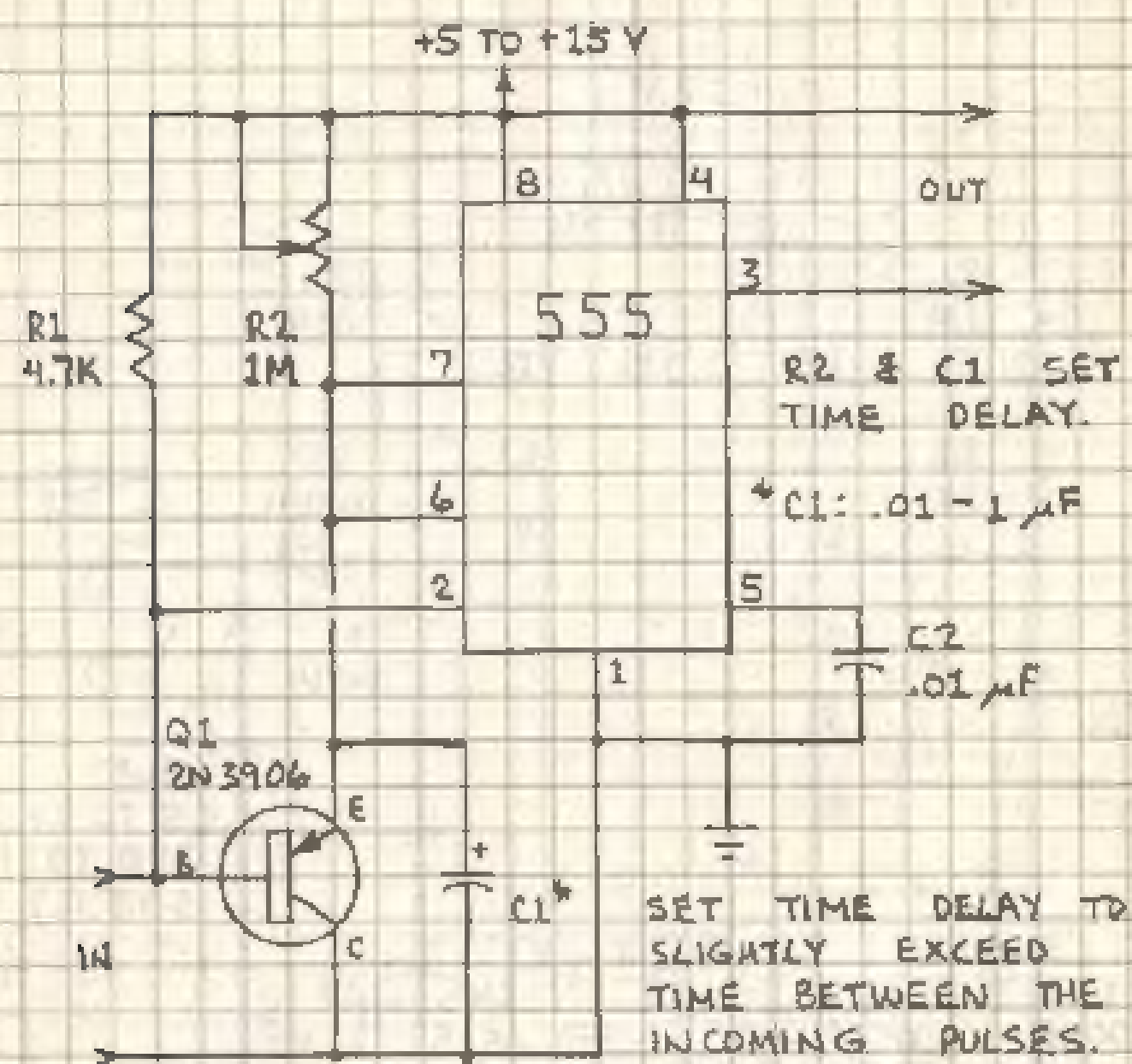


TIMER 1 IS CONNECTED AS A STABLE OSCILLATOR WHICH OSCILLATES AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY R1 AND C1. TIMER 2 IS A ONE-SHOT THAT DRIVES A RELAY VIA D1. TIMER 1 TRIGGERS TIMER 2 ONCE PER CYCLE FOR 3 TO 5 SECONDS.

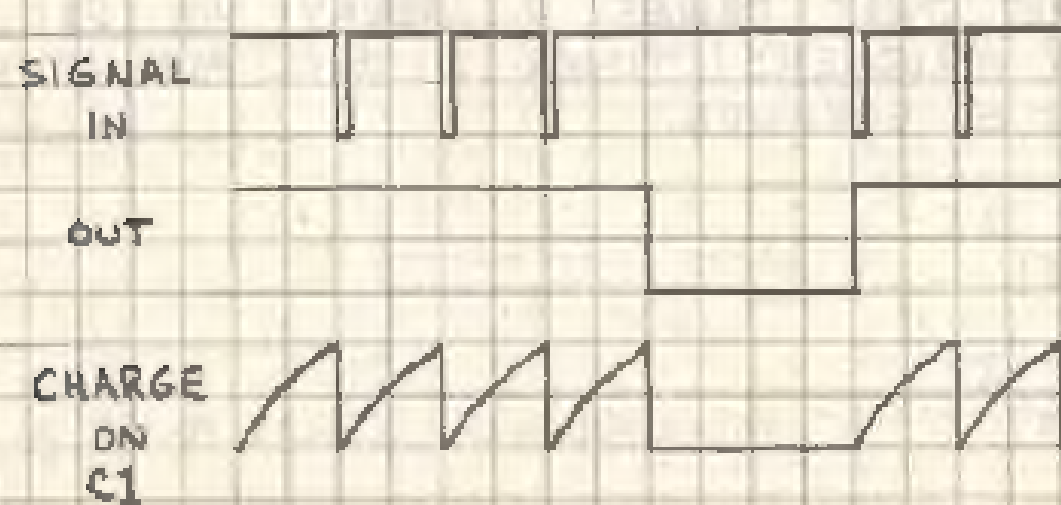


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MISSING PULSE DETECTOR

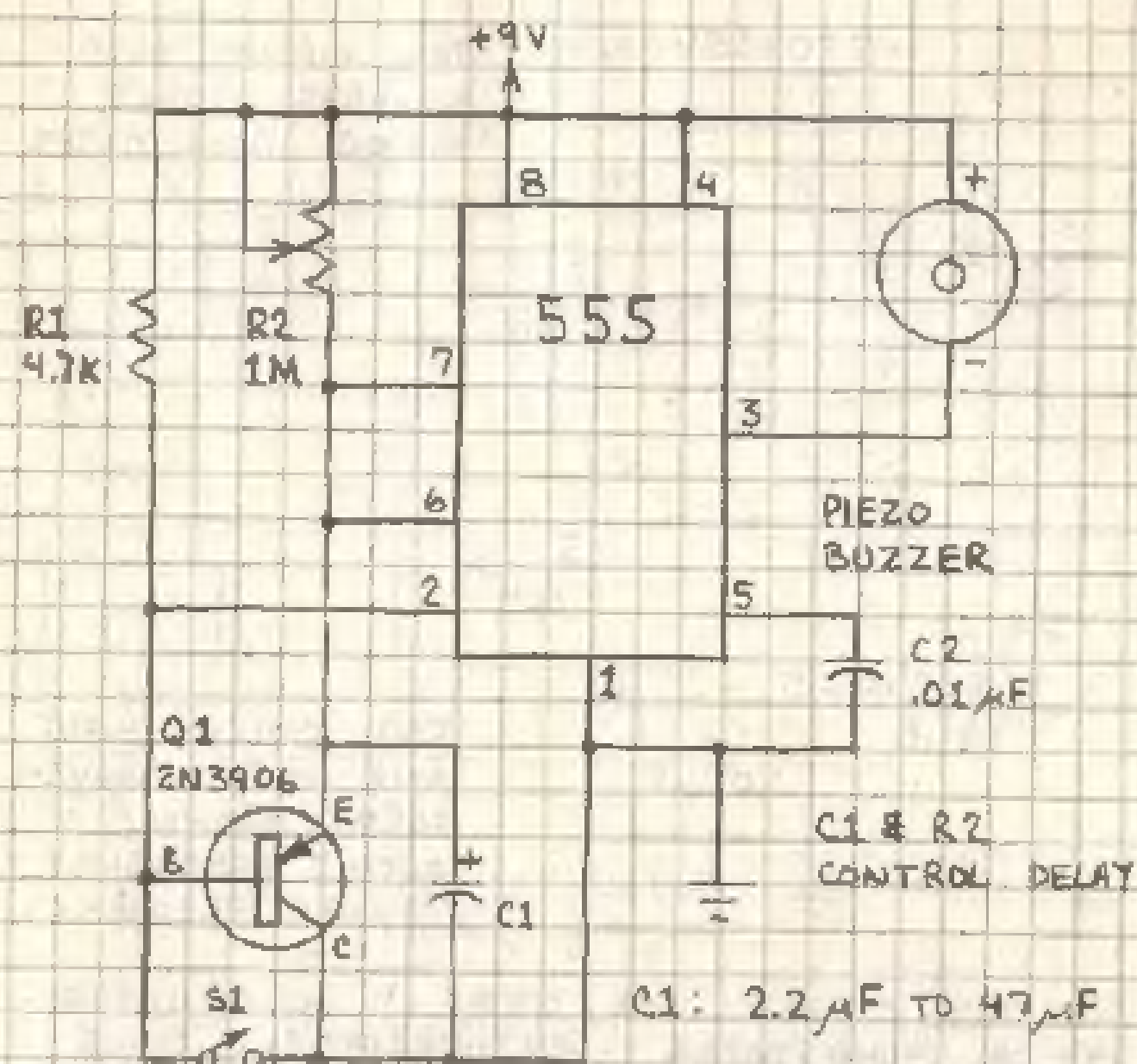


INCOMING PULSES CONTINUALLY RESET THE TIMING CYCLE. A MISSING PULSE ALLOWS THE TIMING CYCLE TO BE COMPLETED, CHANGING THE OUTPUT STATE.

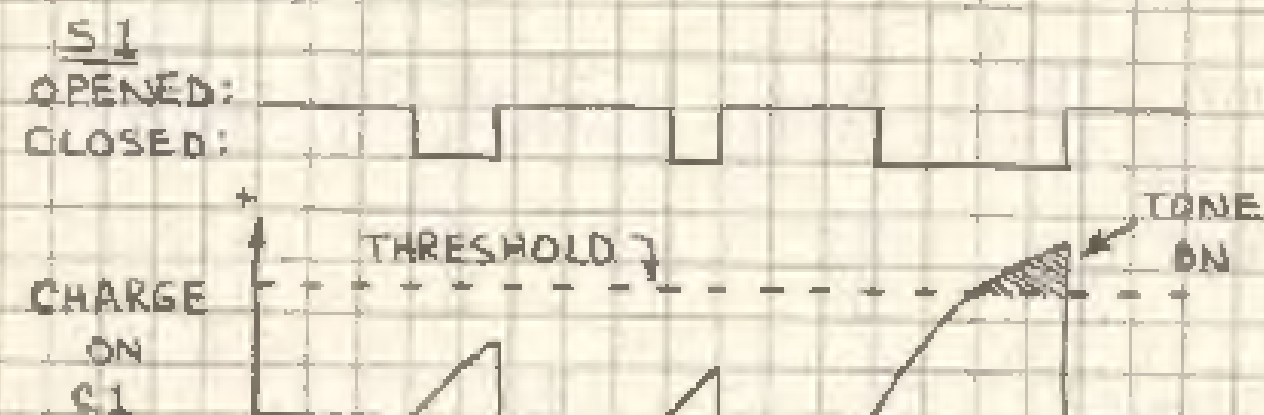


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EVENT FAILURE ALARM

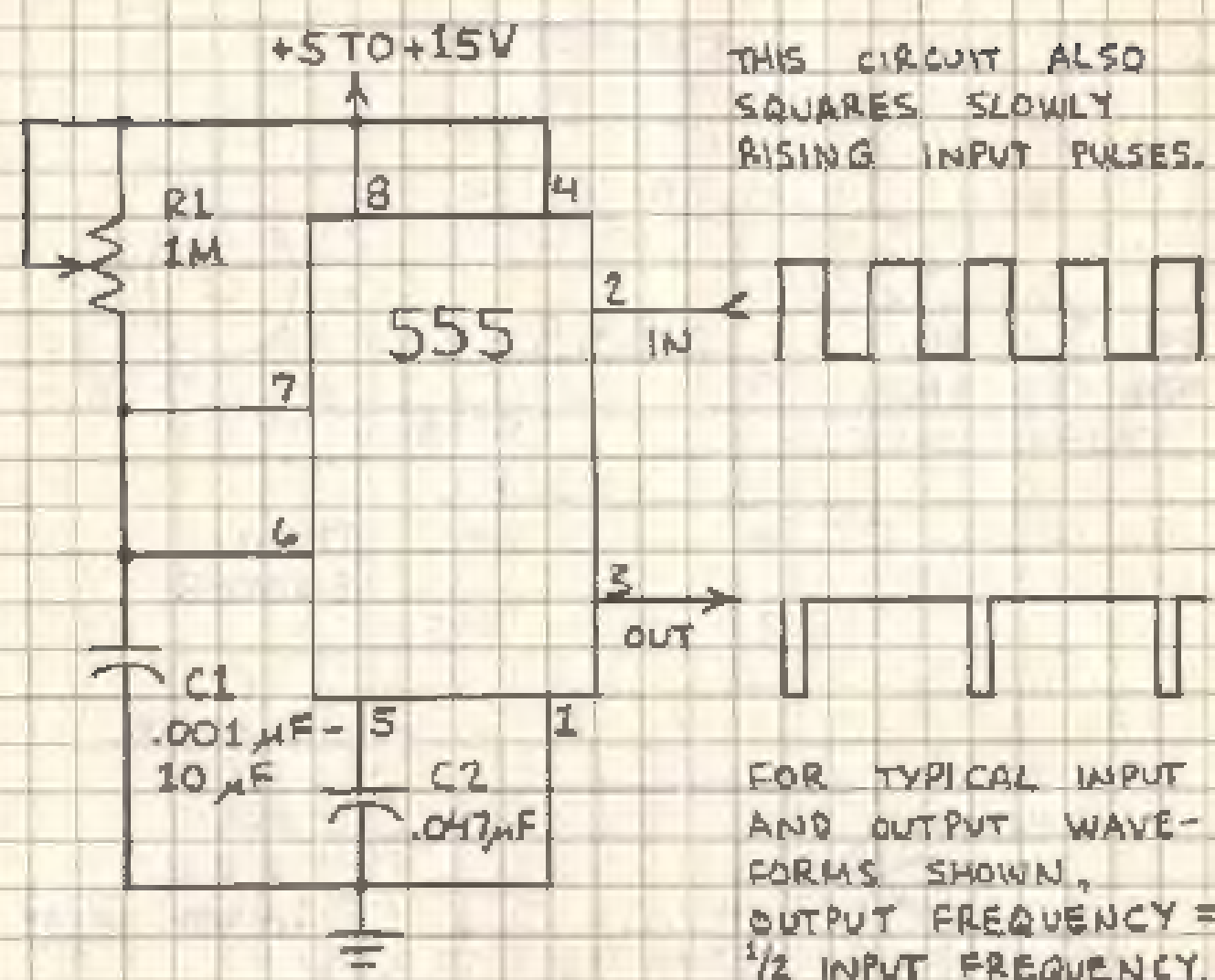


WHEN POWER IS APPLIED, C1 BEGINS TO CHARGE THROUGH R2. UNLESS S1 IS CLOSED BEFORE THE 555 TIMING CYCLE IS COMPLETED, THE BUZZER WILL SOUND. S1 CAN BE ANY EXTERNAL SWITCH.

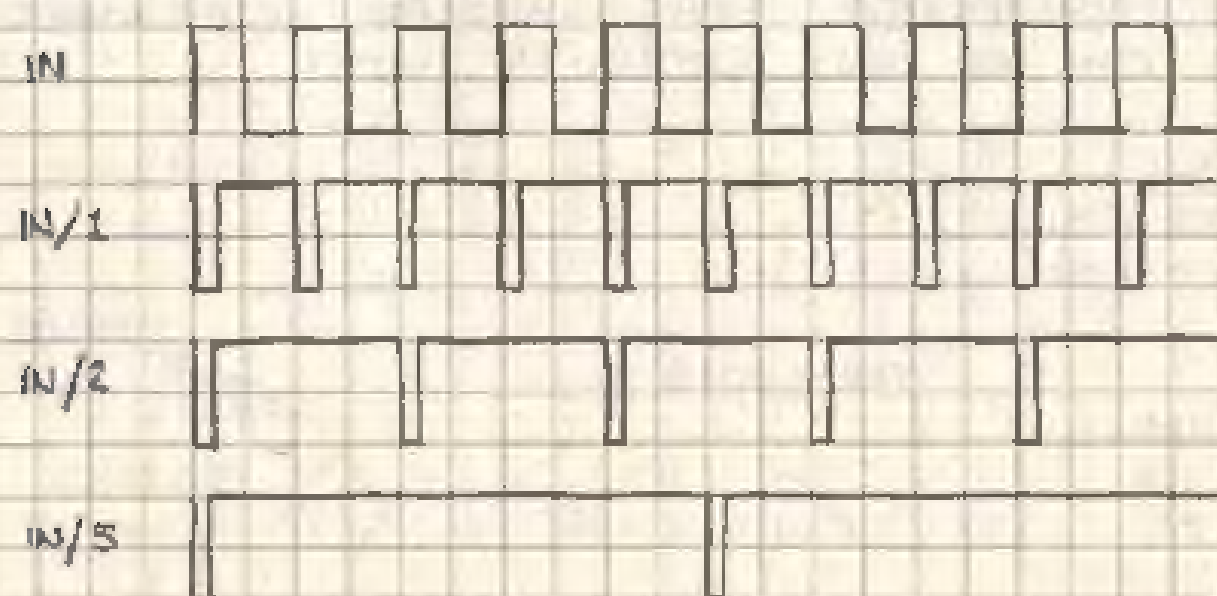


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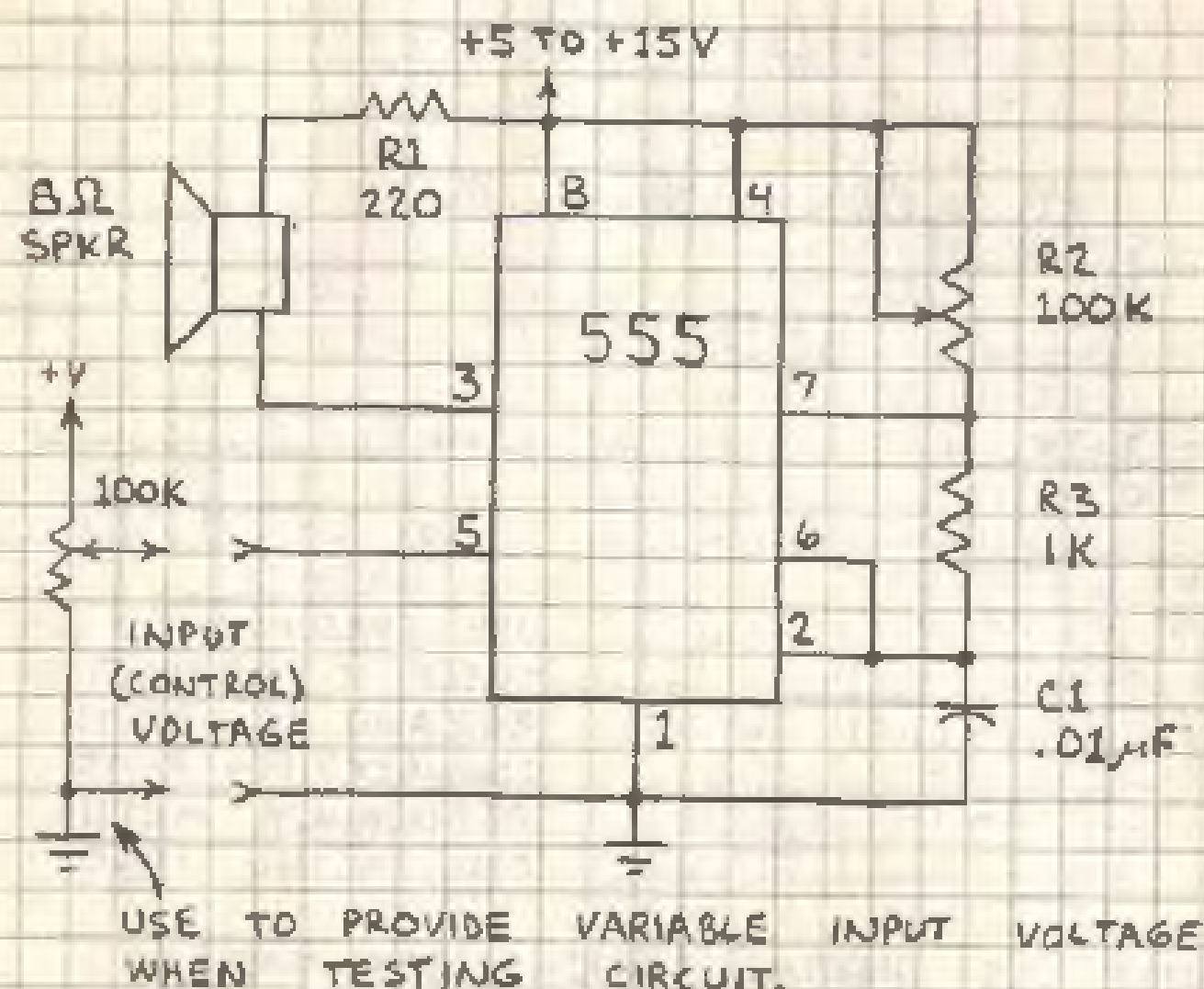
FREQUENCY DIVIDER



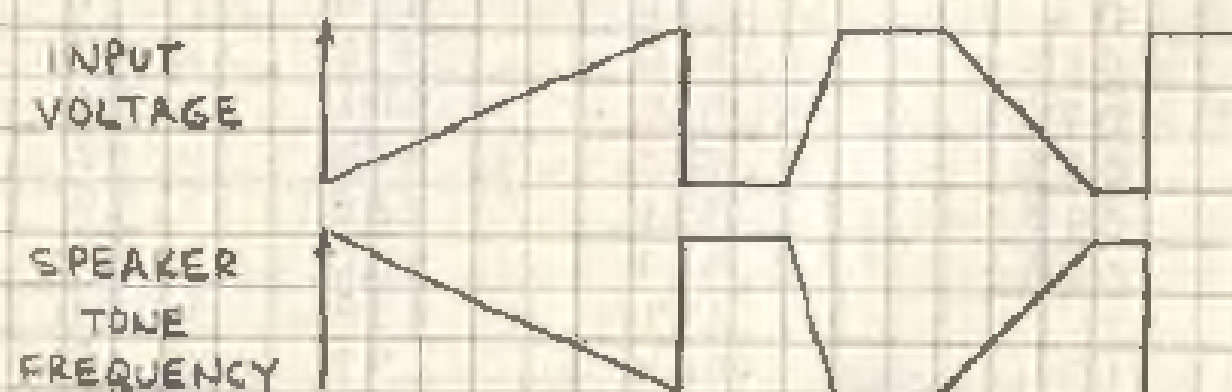
IN THIS CIRCUIT THE 555 IS CONNECTED AS A MONOSTABLE MULTIVIBRATOR. ONCE A TIMING CYCLE IS INITIATED BY AN INPUT PULSE, SUBSEQUENT INPUT PULSES HAVE NO EFFECT UNTIL CYCLE IS COMPLETED. SHOWN BELOW ARE TYPICAL INPUT AND OUTPUT WAVEFORMS ($C1 = 0.1 \mu F$, $R1$ VARIED IN VALUE).



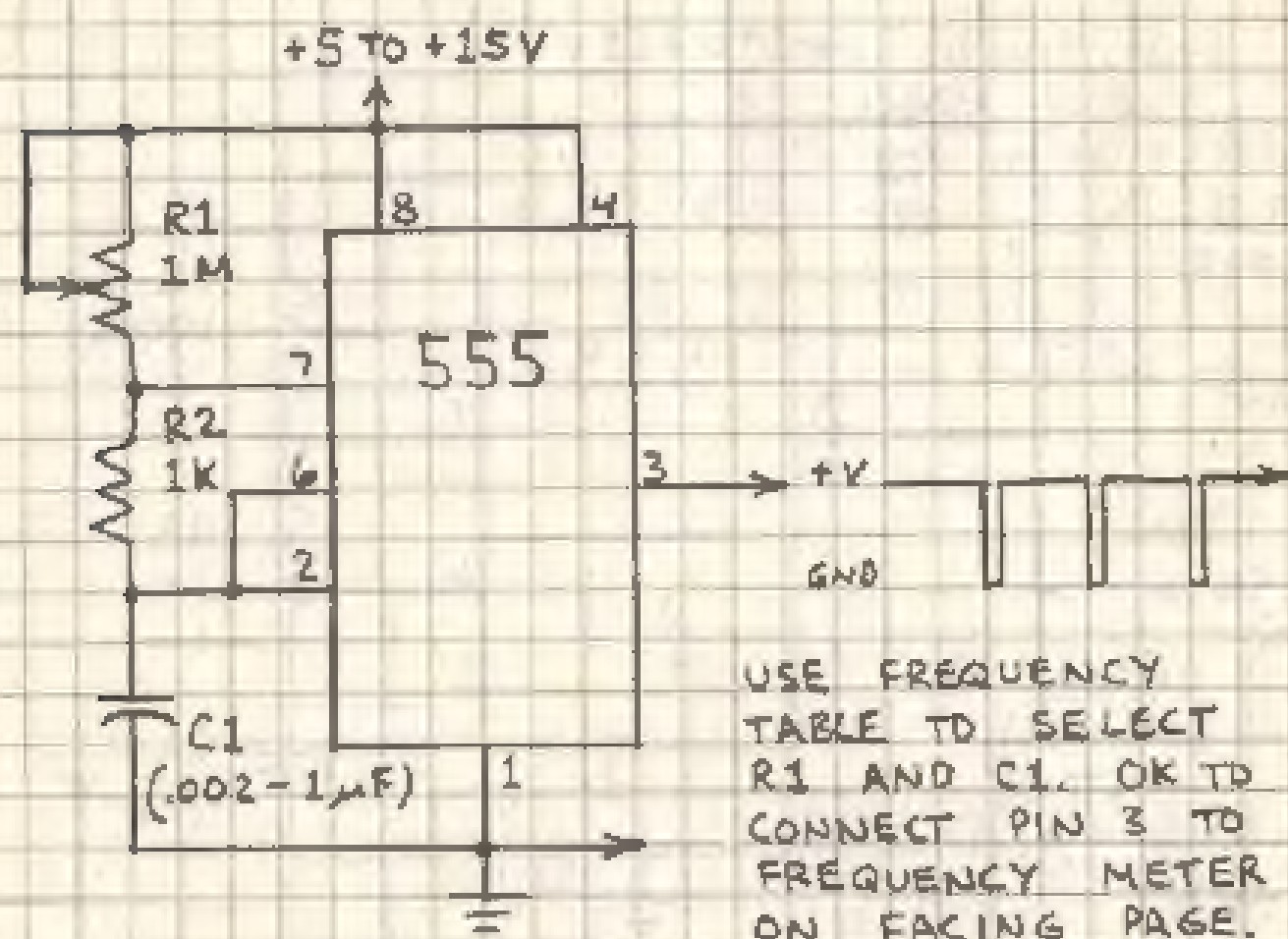
VOLTAGE-CONTROLLED OSCILLATOR



THE 555 OSCILLATES AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY $R2$ AND $C1$. A VOLTAGE APPLIED TO THE INPUT CHANGES THE OSCILLATION FREQUENCY OF THE 555. AS THE INPUT VOLTAGE INCREASES, THE OSCILLATION FREQUENCY DECREASES. FOR MORE VOLUME, OMIT $R1$ AND CONNECT SPKR TO GROUND THROUGH $4.7 \mu F$ CAPACITOR.



PULSE GENERATOR

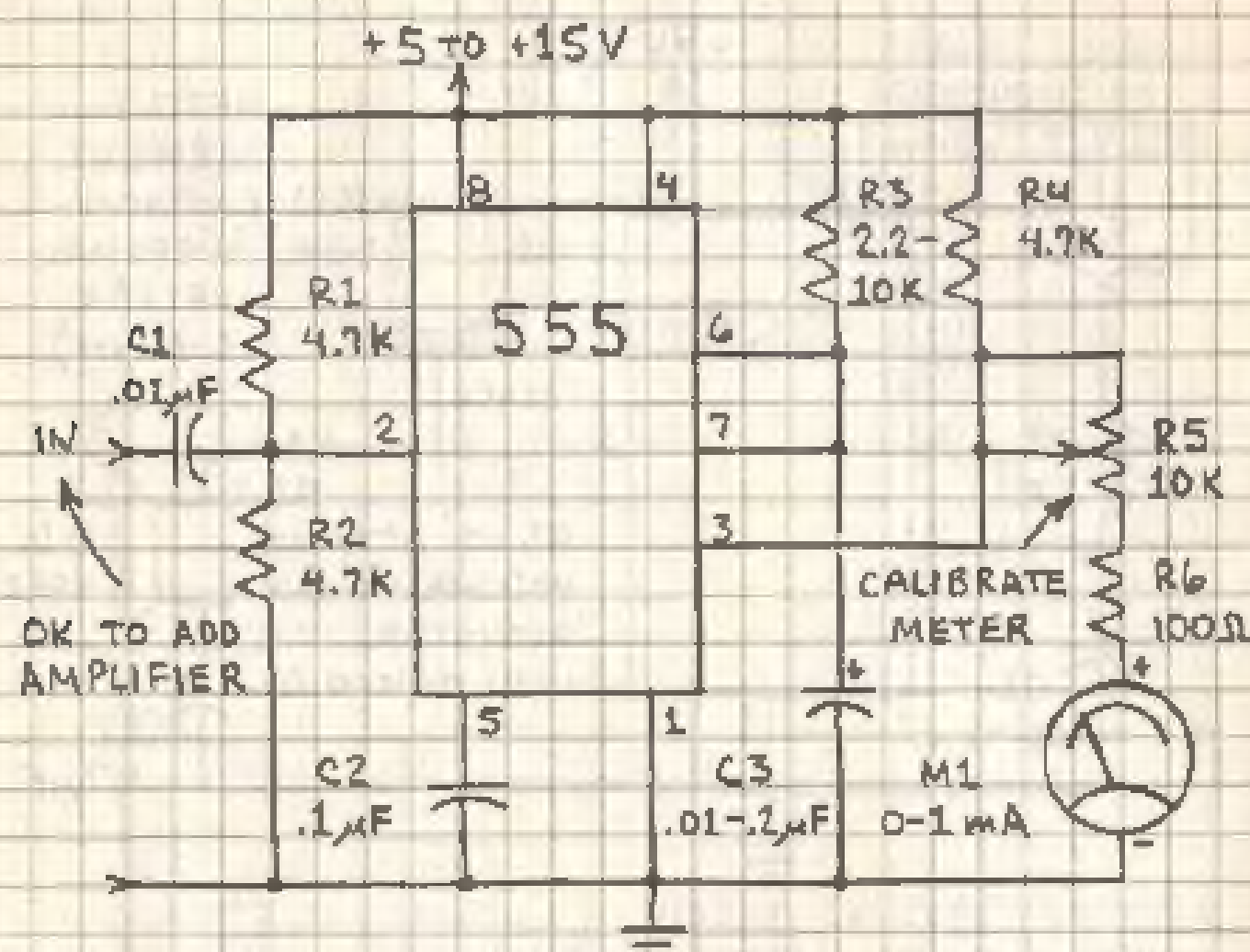


USE AS DIGITAL LOGIC CLOCK PULSE GENERATOR, SIGNAL GENERATOR, ETC.

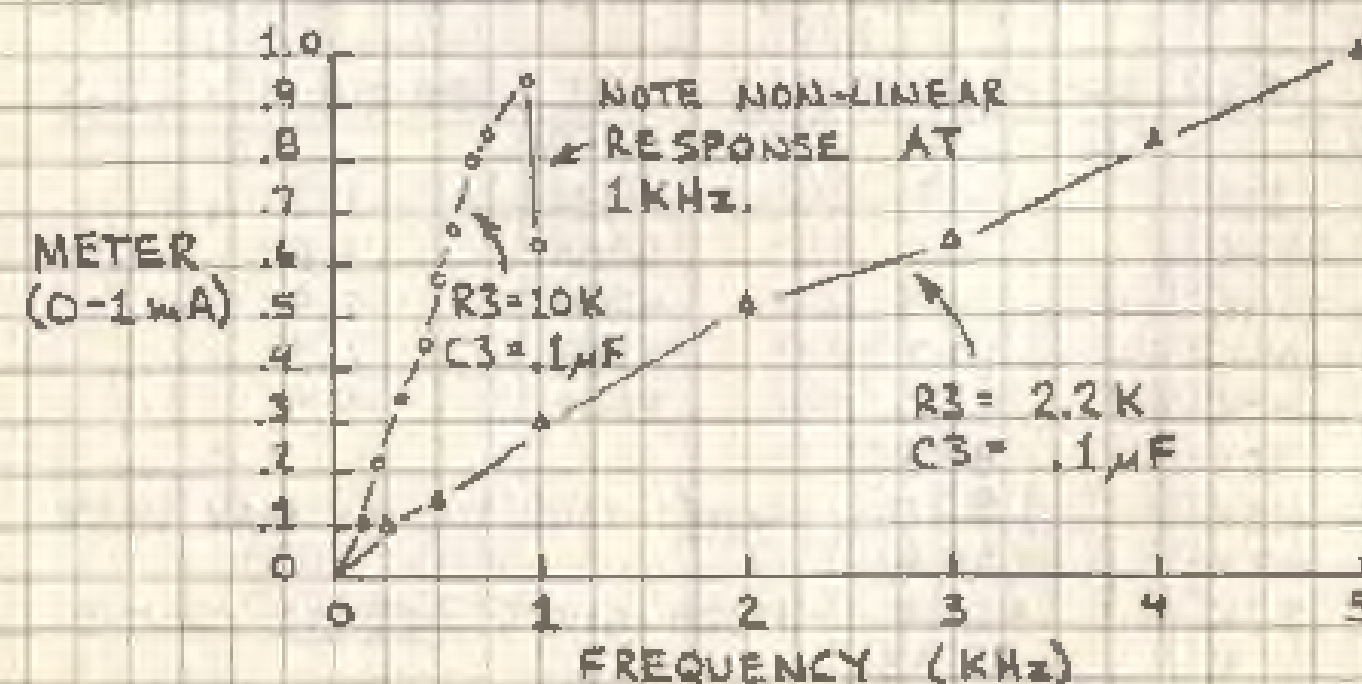
FREQUENCY TABLE (FREQUENCIES IN Hz)

C1 (μF)	R1=10K	R1=100K	R1=1M
.0022	42,470	5,240	520
.0033	30,490	3,740	371
.0047	21,522	2,630	261
.0068	16,300	1,987	197
.01	11,622	1,414	140
.015	7,210	876	87
.022	4,959	601	60
.033	3,530	428	42
.047	2,351	285	28
.068	1,737	210	20
.1	1,139	138	14
.15	804	97	10
.22	540	65	6

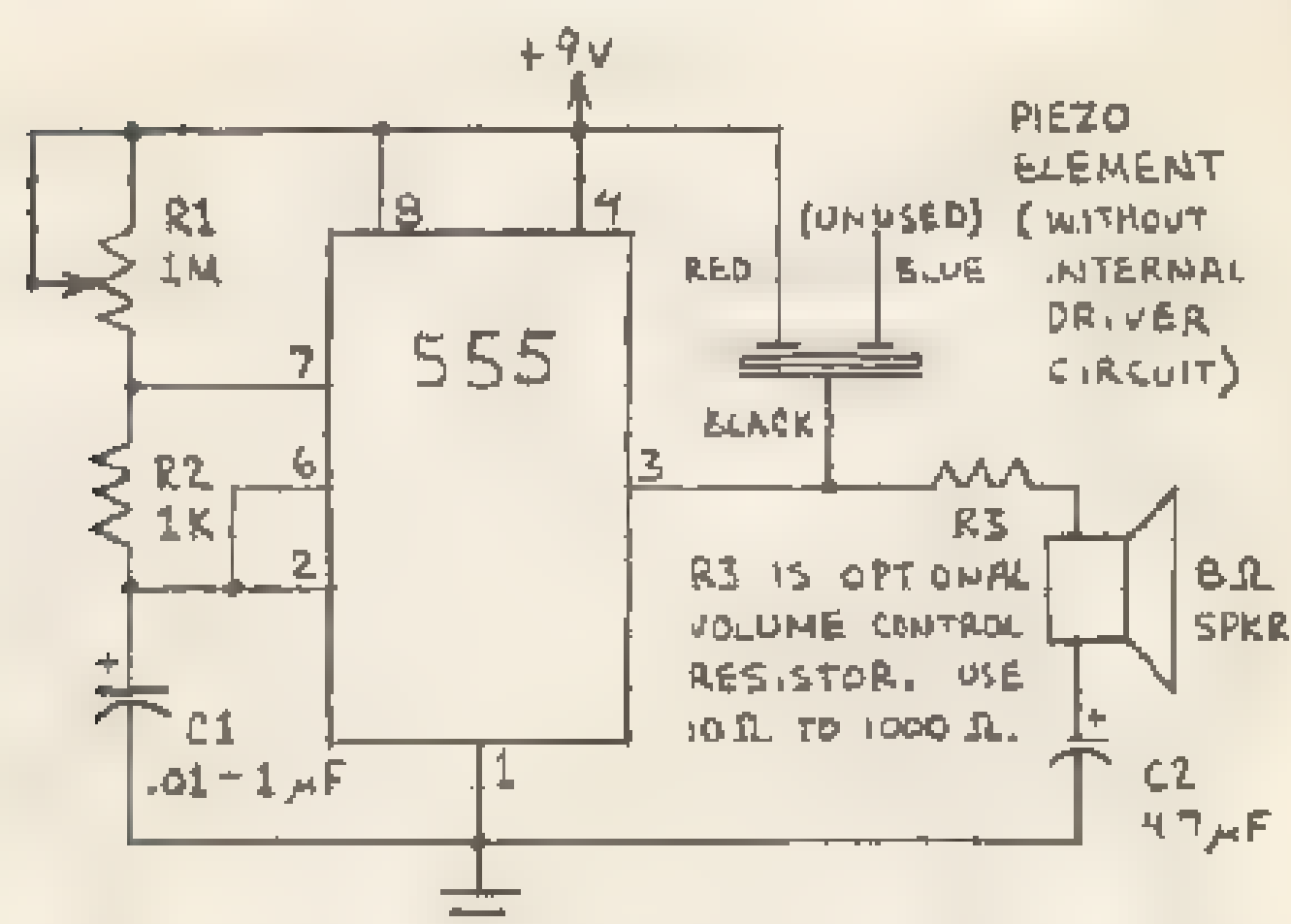
FREQUENCY METER



THIS ULTRA-SIMPLE CIRCUIT MEASURES AUDIO FREQUENCY SIGNALS. INPUT SIGNAL SHOULD RANGE FROM 2.5 TO 5 VOLTS. FOR TESTING, CONNECT PULSE GENERATOR ON FACING PAGE DIRECTLY TO PIN 2 (OMIT C1). R3 AND C3 DETERMINE FREQUENCY RANGE.



AUDIO OSCILLATOR / METRONOME



THIS CIRCUIT WILL FUNCTION WITH EITHER OR BOTH OUTPUT DEVICES. THE SPEAKER GIVES MORE VOLUME, BUT USES MORE CURRENT. USE R3 TO REDUCE VOLUME. HERE ARE TYPICAL FREQUENCIES FOR VARIOUS SETTINGS OF R1:

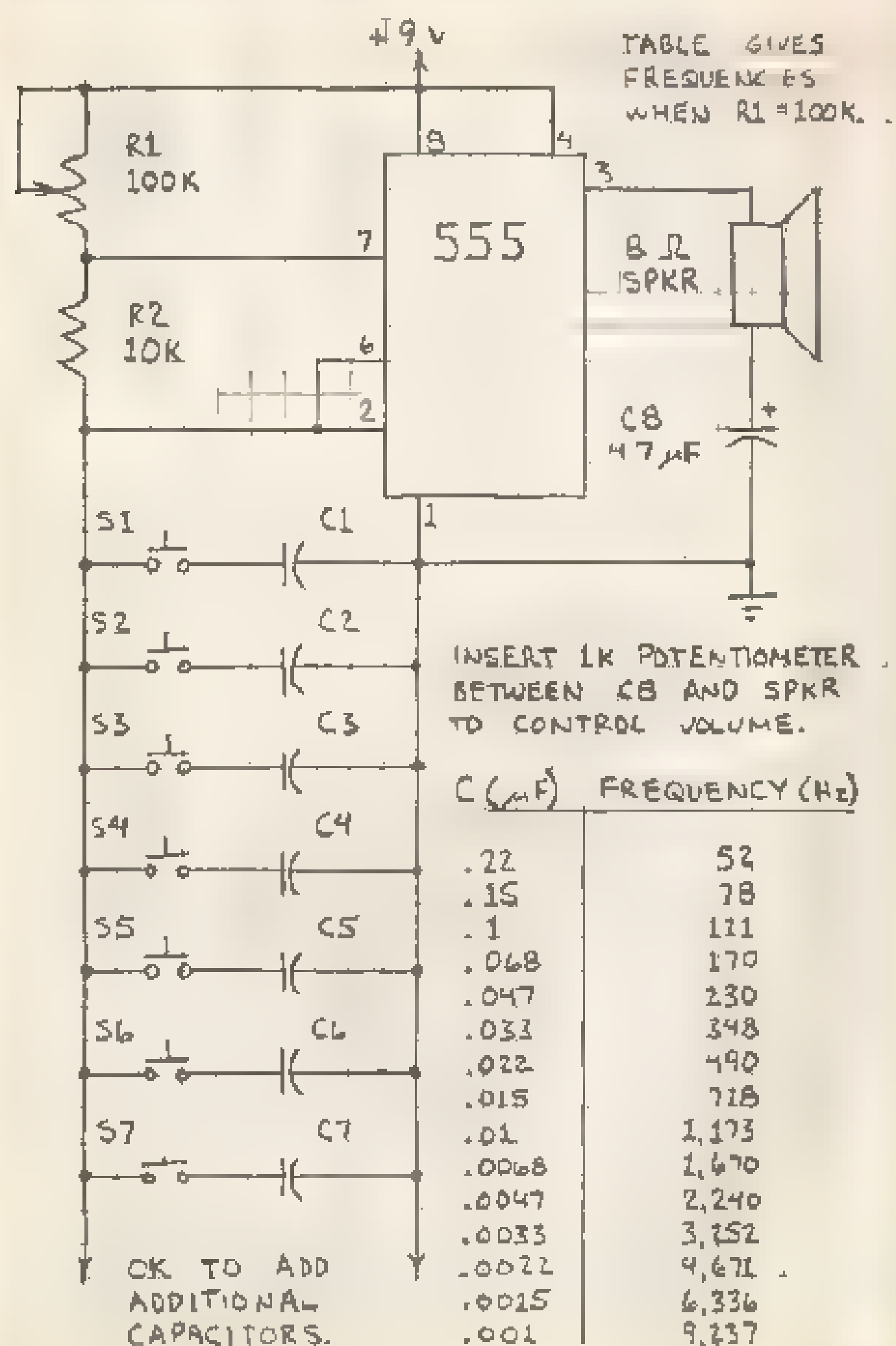
OSCILLATOR (C = .01μF) METRONOME (C1 = 1μF)

R1	FREQUENCY (Hz)	R1	FREQUENCY (Hz)
1M	17	1M	1.2
470K	40	680K	1.8
220K	85	470K	2.9
100K	177	220K	6.1
47K	410	100K	9.4
22K	838		
10K	1570		
4.7K	2746		
2.2K	4606		
1K	6283		

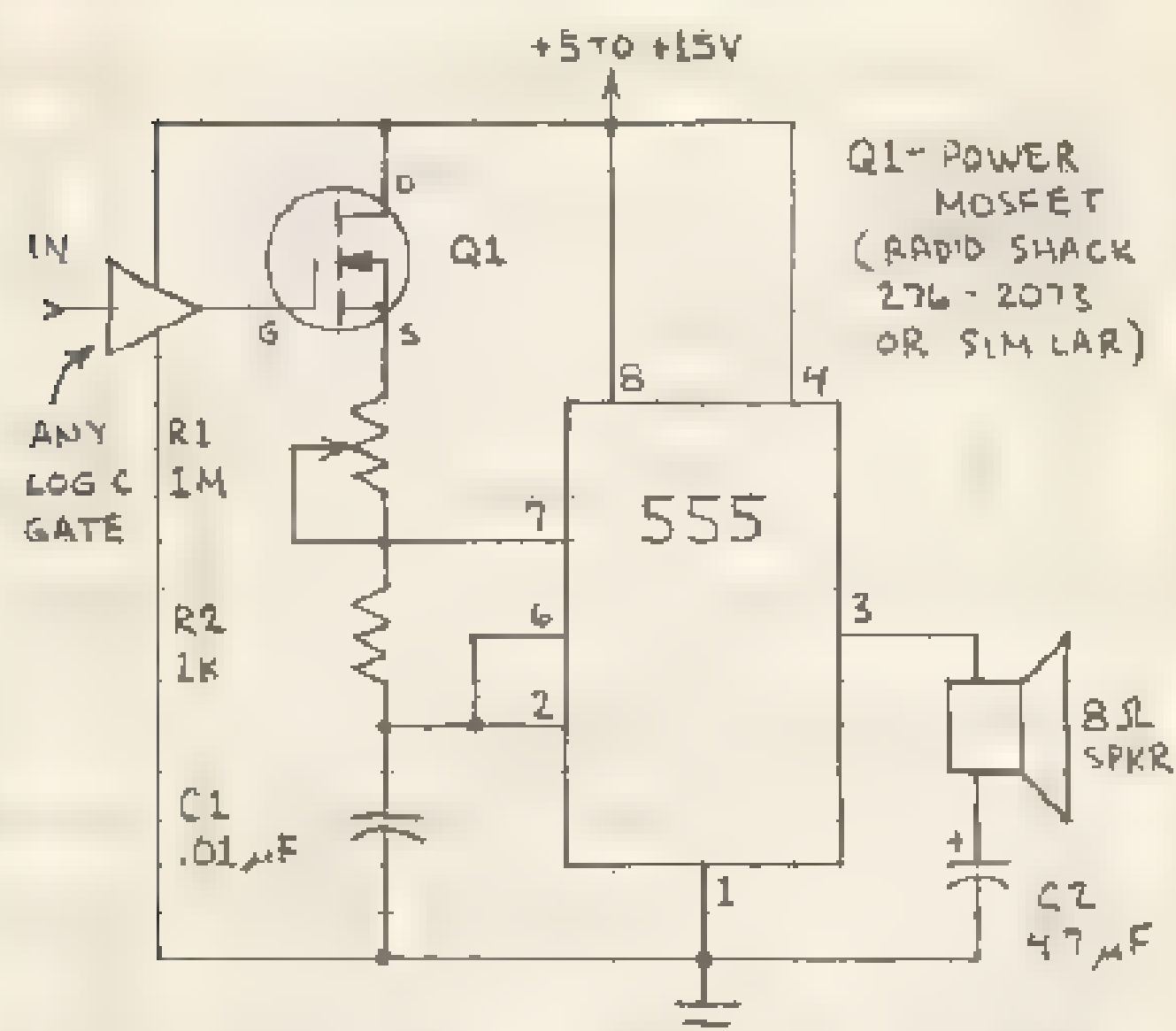
NOTE: YOUR VALUES MAY VARY.

PIEZO GIVES INTENSE SOUND.

TOY ORGAN



GATED OSCILLATOR

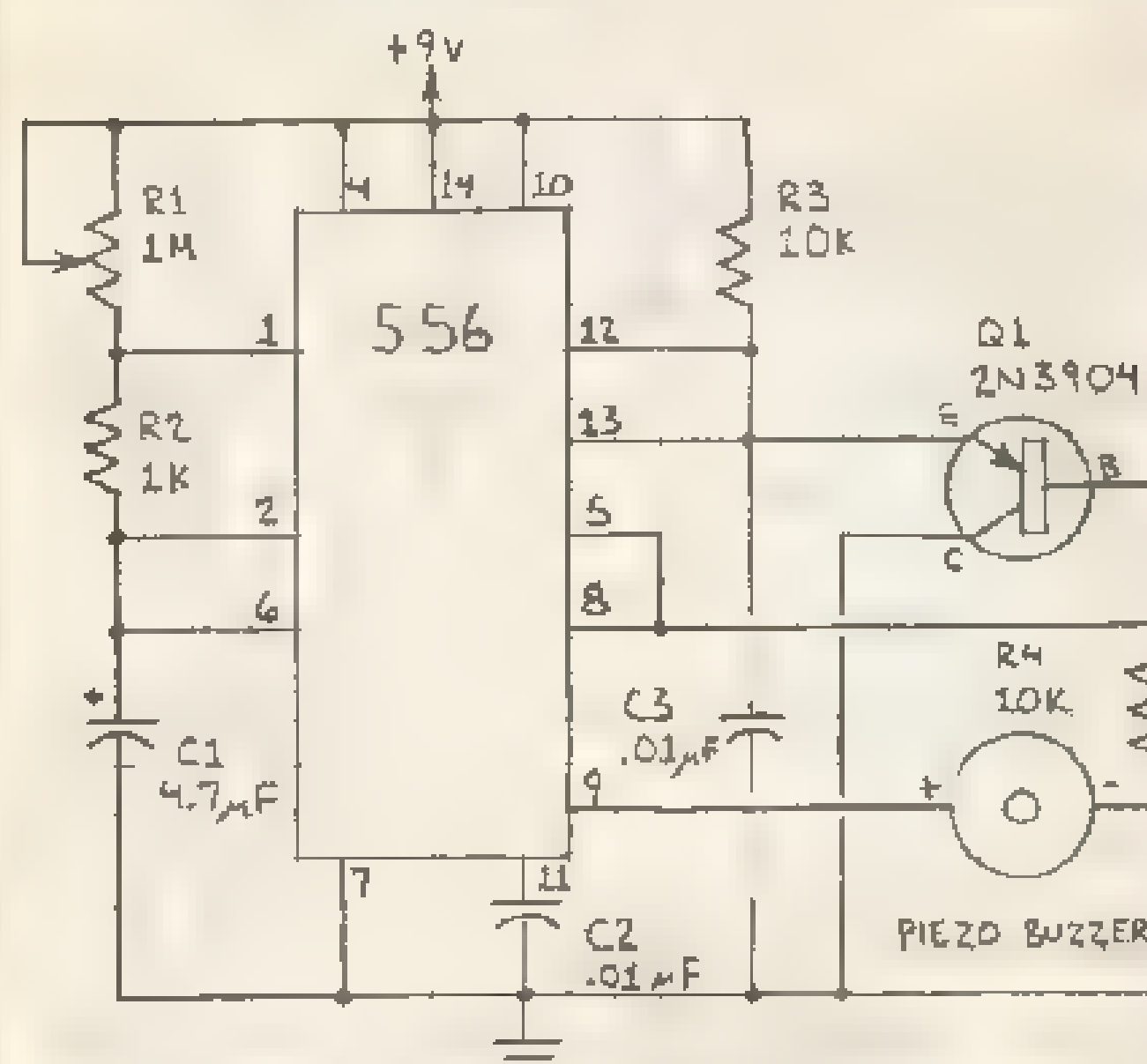


THIS CIRCUIT WILL ALLOW YOU TO SWITCH THE TONE GENERATED BY THE 555 BY MEANS OF AN EXTERNAL LOGIC SIGNAL. THE TRIANGULAR SYMBOL IS ANY EXTERNAL LOGIC GATE. OK TO SWITCH THE TONE ON AND OFF BY CONNECTING GATE OF Q1 TO +V OR GROUND THROUGH 1M RESISTOR. R1 AND C1 CONTROL TONE FREQUENCY. Q1 CAN BE CONNECTED AS A SWITCHABLE GATE ELSEWHERE IN CIRCUIT.

N	TOPE
LOW	OFF
HIGH	ON

CAUTION: Q1 CAN BE DESTROYED BY STATIC ELECTRICITY! DO NOT TOUCH EXPOSED LEADS. FOLLOW HANDLING PRECAUTIONS ON PACKAGE.

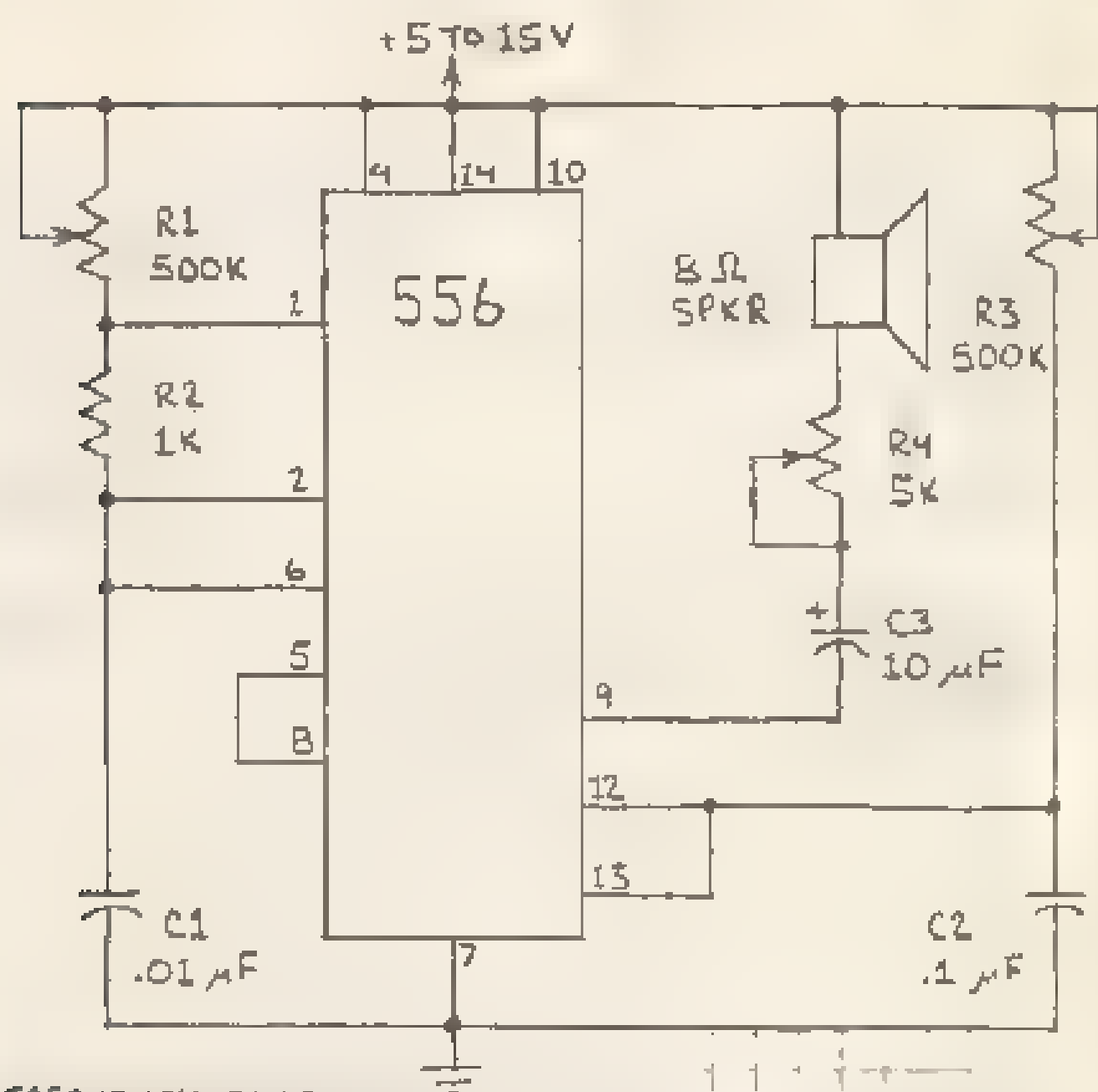
CHIRP GENERATOR



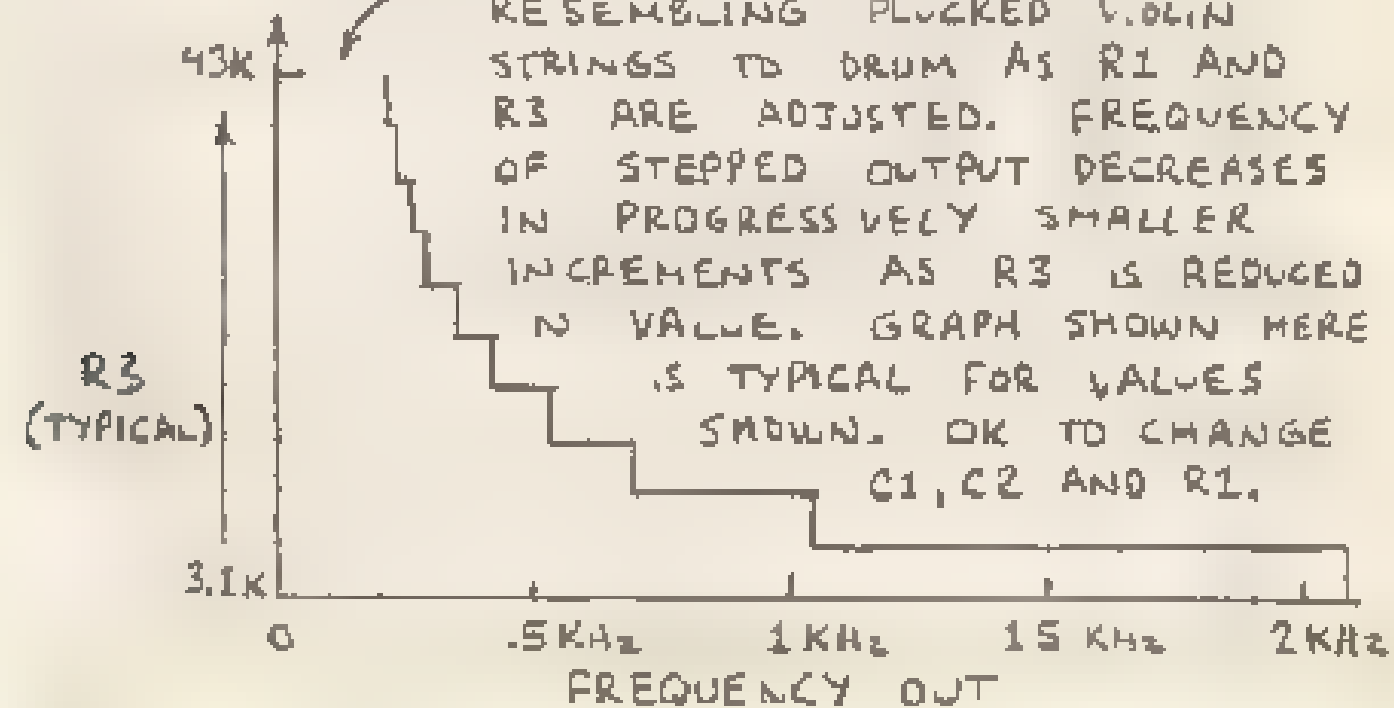
THIS CIRCUIT APPLIES BRIEF PULSES OF CURRENT TO A PIEZO BUZZER (RADIO SHACK 273-065 OR SIMILAR). THIS CAUSES THE BUZZER TO EMIT ATTENTION GETTING CHIRPS. THE CIRCUIT MAKES A GOOD WARNING DEVICE.

R1 CONTROLS RATE OF CHIRPS. USE 100K
FIXED RESISTOR FOR ABOUT 2-3 CHIRPS
PER SECOND. C3 CONTROLS DURATION OF
CHIRPS. FOR LONG DURATION PULSES (WHICH
BECOME TONE BURSTS) INCREASE C3 TO
0.22 μ F OR MORE. REDUCE VOLUME BY
INSERTING 100-10,000 Ω RESISTOR
BETWEEN PIN 9 AND PIEZO BUZZER.
TRY USING CdS PHOTORESISTOR FOR R1.

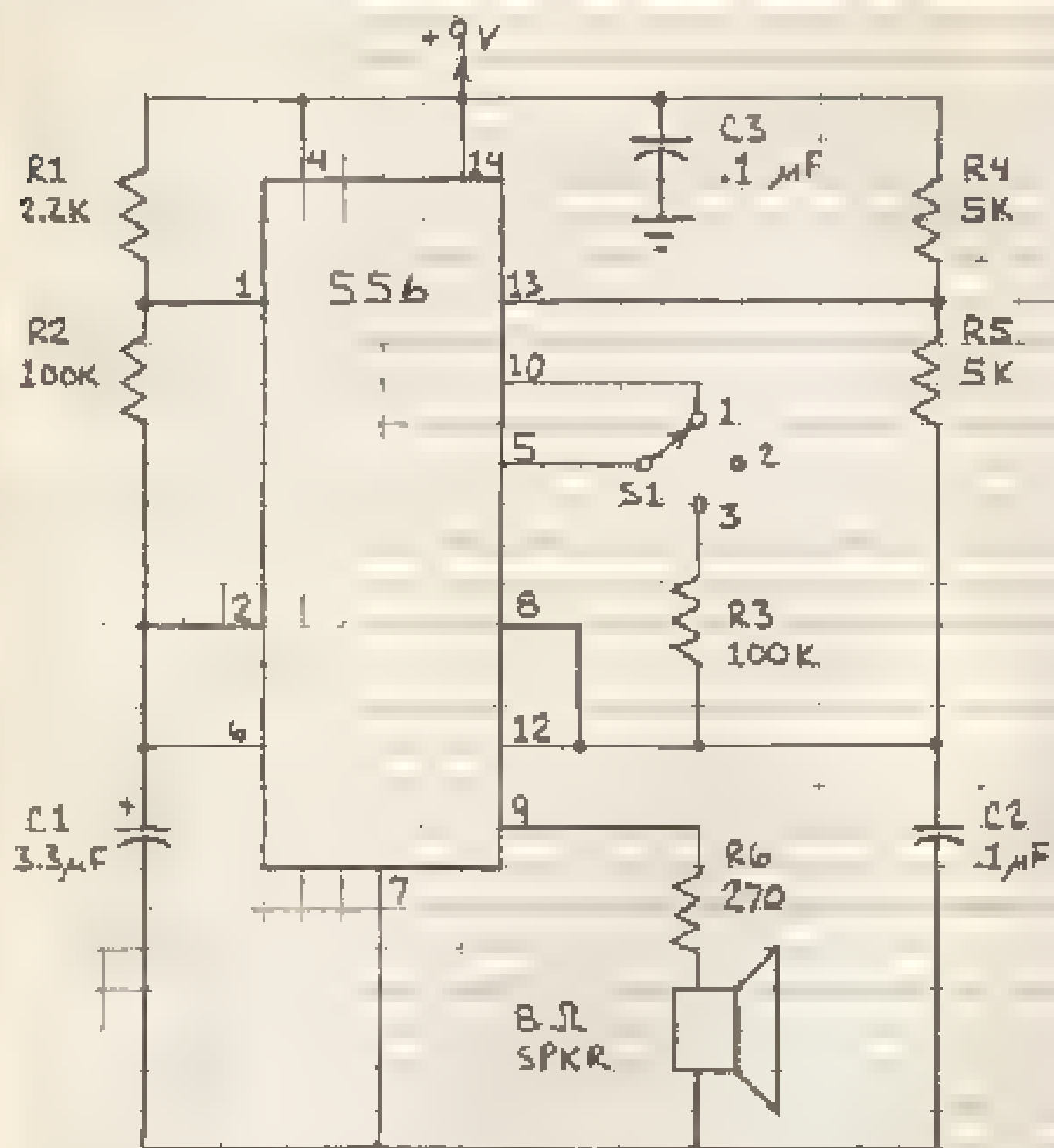
STEPPED-TONE GENERATOR



FREQUENCY FALLS
AS R3 REDUCED



3-STATE TONE GENERATOR

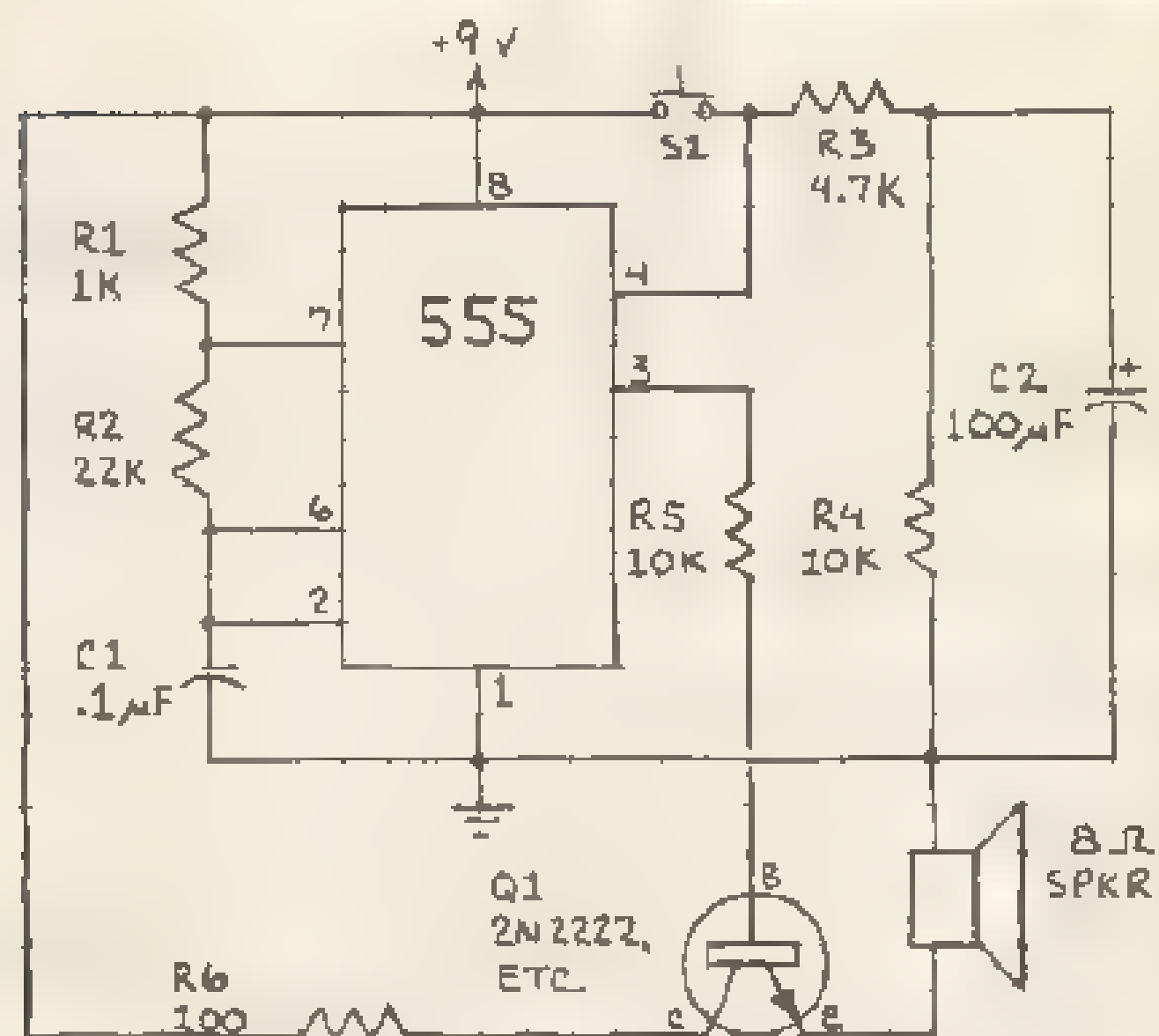


EXPERIMENT WITH VALUES
OF R1, C1, R4 AND C2.

S1 (CENTER OFF):

- 1 - TONE BURST
- 2 - STEADY TONE
- 3 - TWO-TONE

TONE BURST GENERATOR



WHEN S1 IS CLOSED, THE SPEAKER EMITS A TONE WHOSE FREQUENCY IS DETERMINED BY R1 AND C1. WHEN S1 IS OPENED, THE TONE CONTINUES FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, THE TIME REQUIRED FOR C2 TO DISCHARGE THROUGH R4. INCREASE C2 TO INCREASE BURST DURATION.

CLOSE S1

OPEN S1

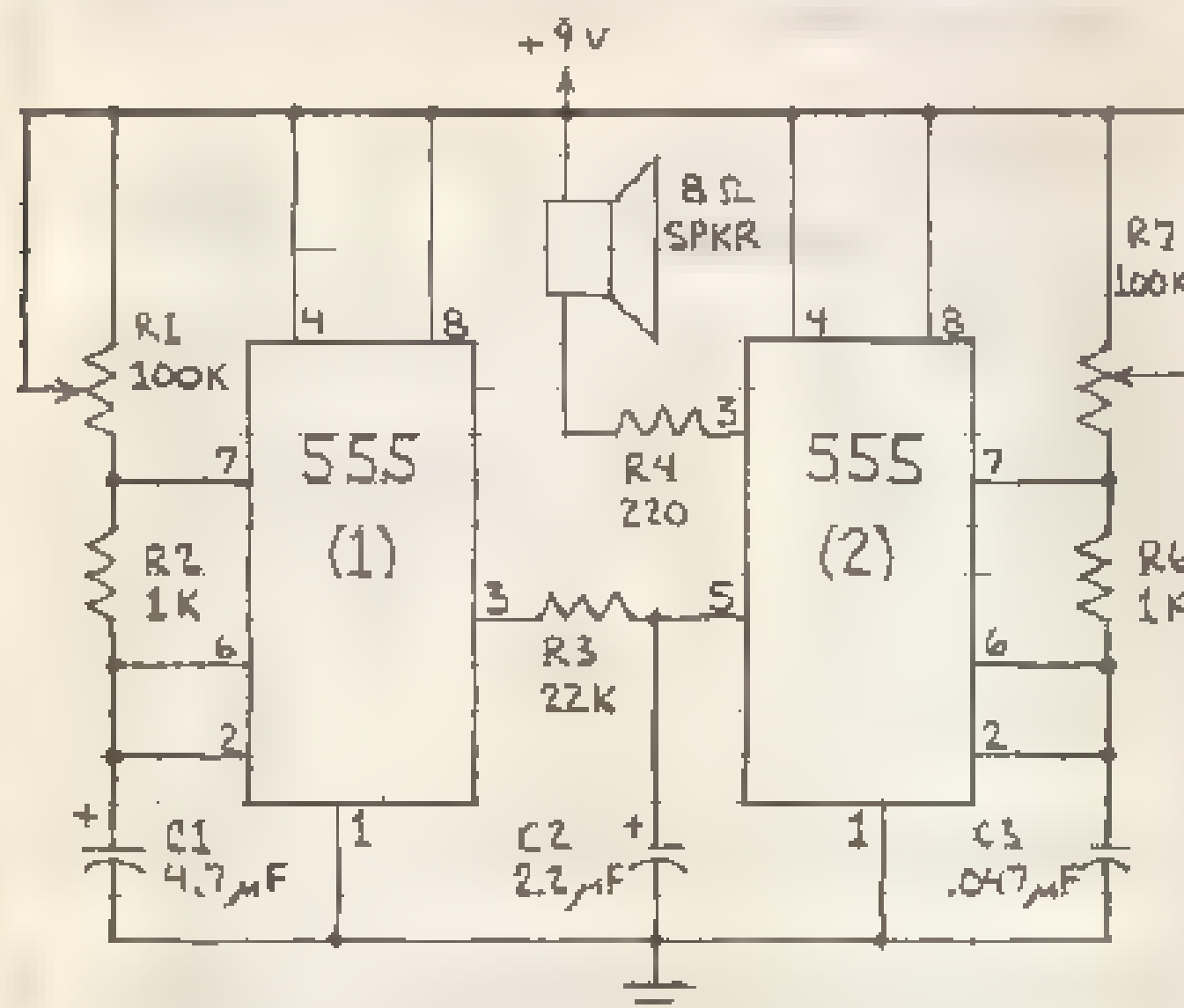
TONE ON

TONE OFF



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SOUND EFFECTS GENERATOR

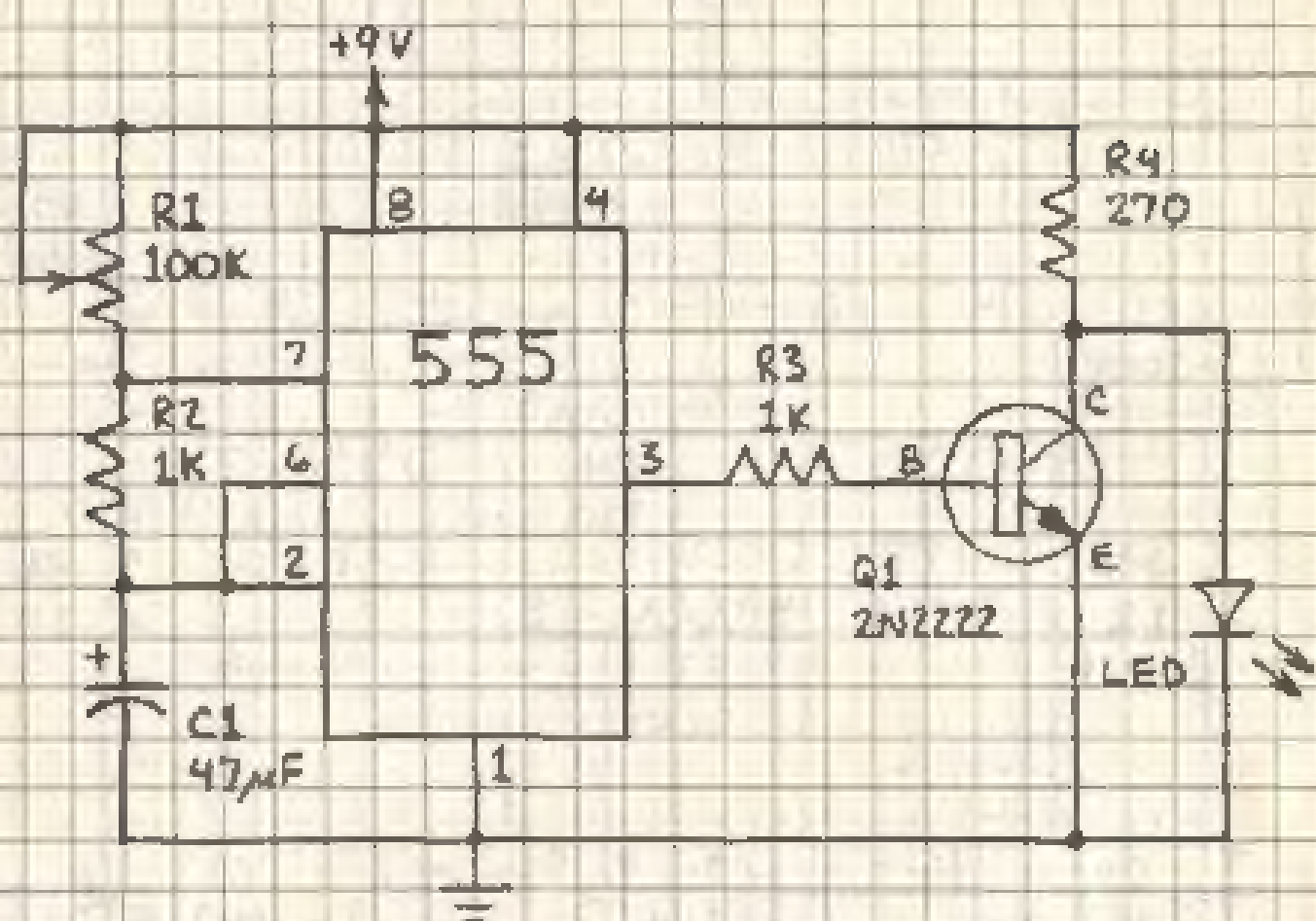


THE FIRST 555 OSCILLATES AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY R1 AND C1. ITS OUTPUT CHARGES C2 THROUGH R3. THE SECOND 555 OSCILLATES AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY R7, C3 AND THE VOLTAGE AT PIN 5 (I.E. THE CHARGE ON C2). EXPERIMENT WITH THE SETTINGS OF R1 AND R7 AND THE VALUES OF R3 AND C2 TO OBTAIN WARBLE EFFECTS.



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LED FLASHER

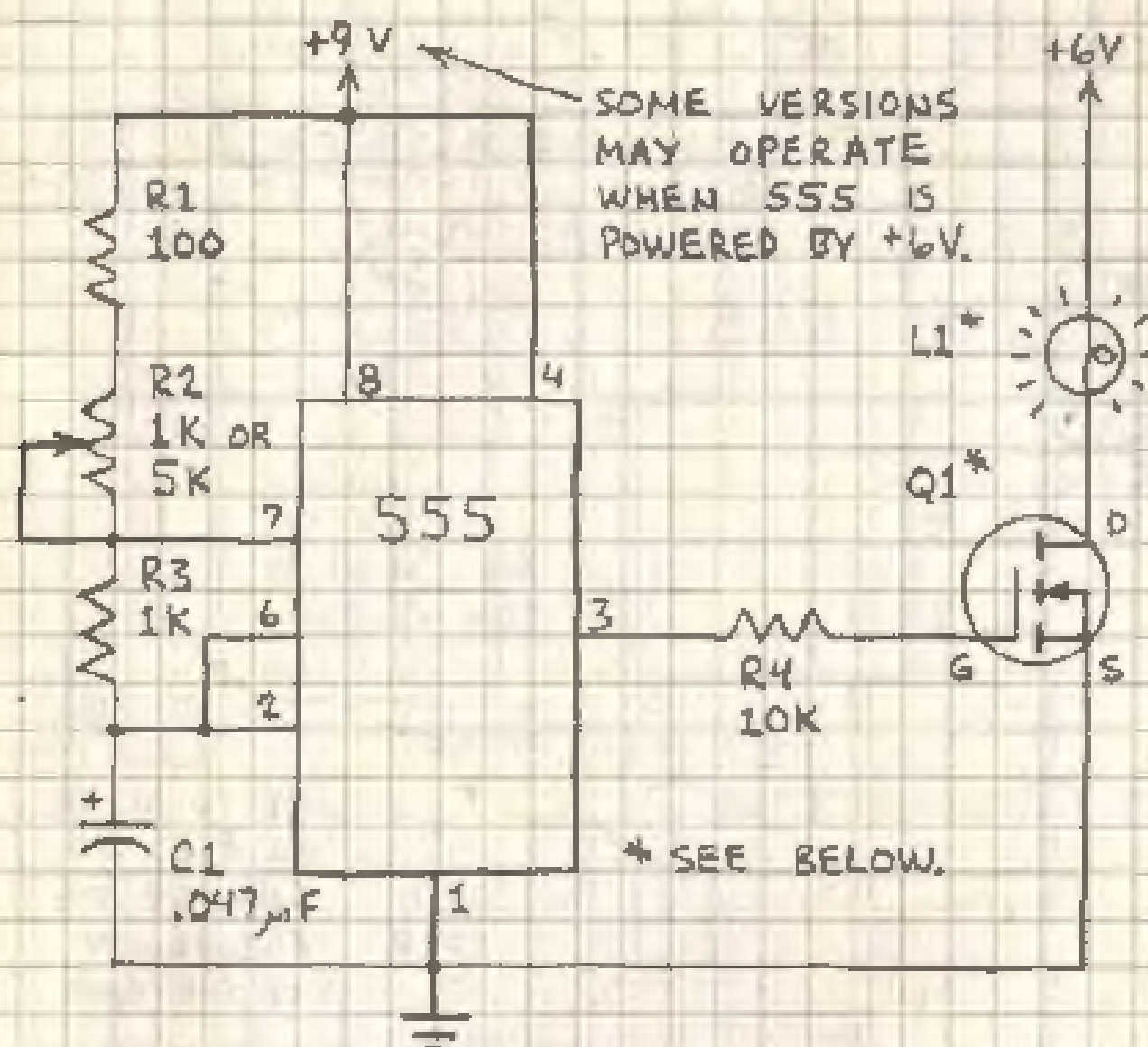


THIS CIRCUIT WILL DRIVE BOTH VISIBLE LIGHT AND INFRARED-EMITTING DIODES. USE RED, GREEN OR YELLOW LED TO MAKE A VISIBLE LIGHT FLASHER. USE NEAR-INFRARED EMITTER TO MAKE POWERFUL TRANSMITTER. CONNECT SOLAR CELL, PHOTODIODE OR PHOTOTRANSISTOR TO AMPLIFIER TO RECEIVE SIGNAL.

R1	RATE (Hz)	CONNECT PIEZO BUZZER ACROSS LED FOR LIGHT/SOUND DARKROOM TIMER.
100K	.2	
47K	.6	
22K	1.1	
10K	2.1	
4.7K	3.6	
2.2K	6.1	
1.0K	8.3	

REDUCE C1 FOR FASTER PULSE RATES, ESPECIALLY WHEN INFRARED EMITTER IS USED. SEE "GETTING STARTED IN ELECTRONICS" (RADIO SHACK, pp.66-69).

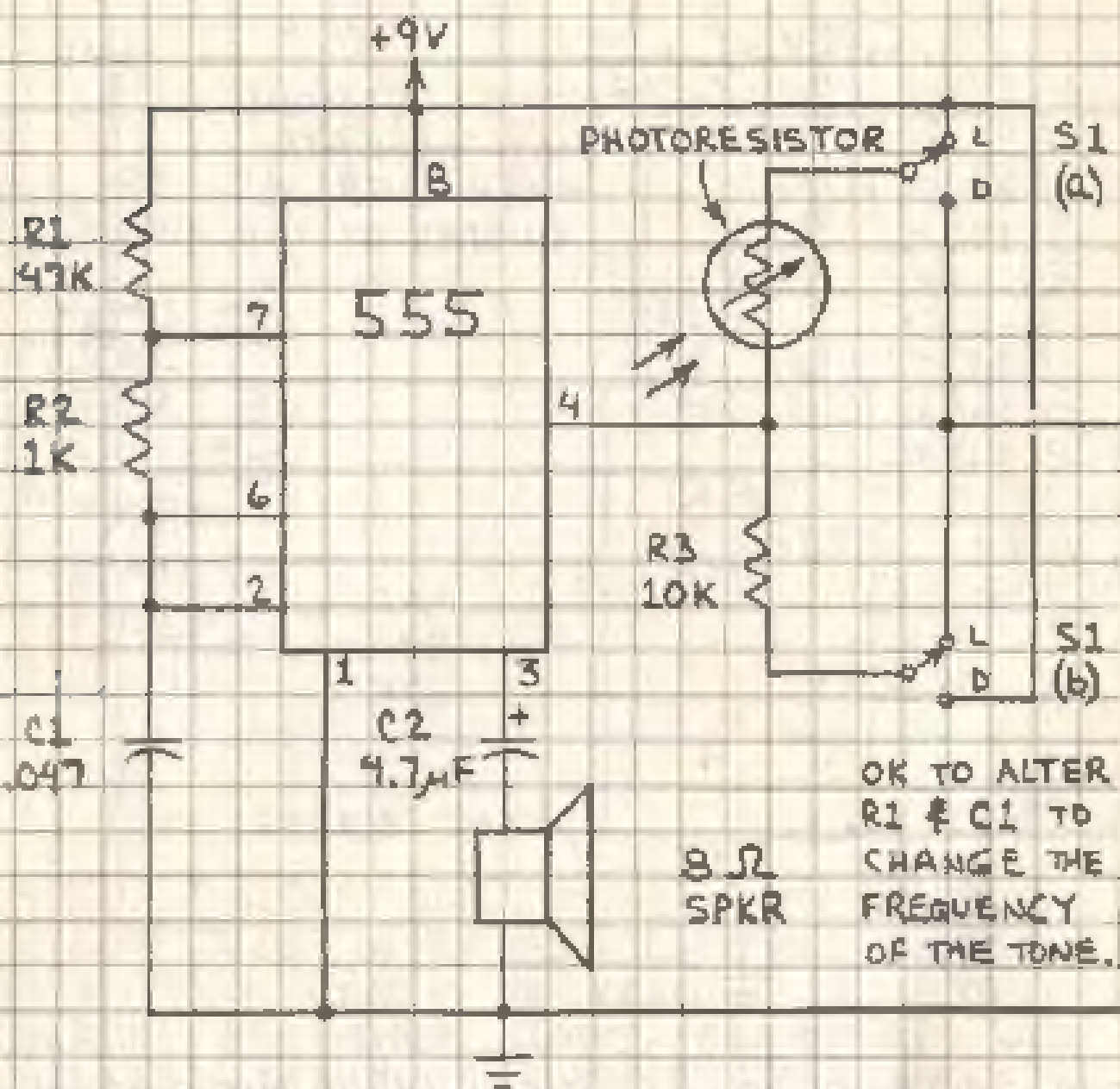
POWER FET LAMP DIMMER



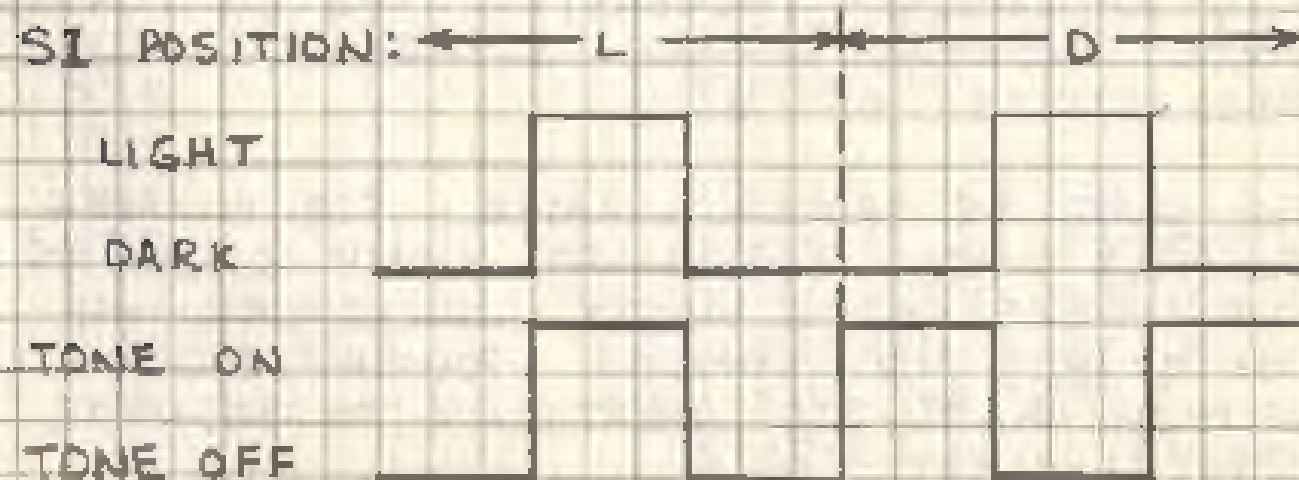
THIS CIRCUIT IS A LINEAR LAMP DIMMER. IN OPERATION, THE 555 SWITCHES Q1 ON AND OFF AT A RATE DETERMINED BY $R1+R2$ AND $C1$. WHEN Q1 IS ON, L1 IS ALSO ON. THE SWITCHING RATE IS SO FAST L1 APPEARS TO GLOW CONTINUOUSLY. INCREASING THE SWITCHING RATE INCREASES THE APPARENT BRIGHTNESS OF L1.

Q1 MUST BE PROPERLY RATED. FOR EXAMPLE, A PR13 6-VOLT FLASHLIGHT LAMP CONSUMES 0.5 AMPERE OR 3 WATTS. THEREFORE USE AN IRF511 OR SIMILAR POWER FET. ATTACH A TO-220 HEATSINK TO DISSIPATE EXCESS HEAT.

LIGHT/DARK DETECTOR

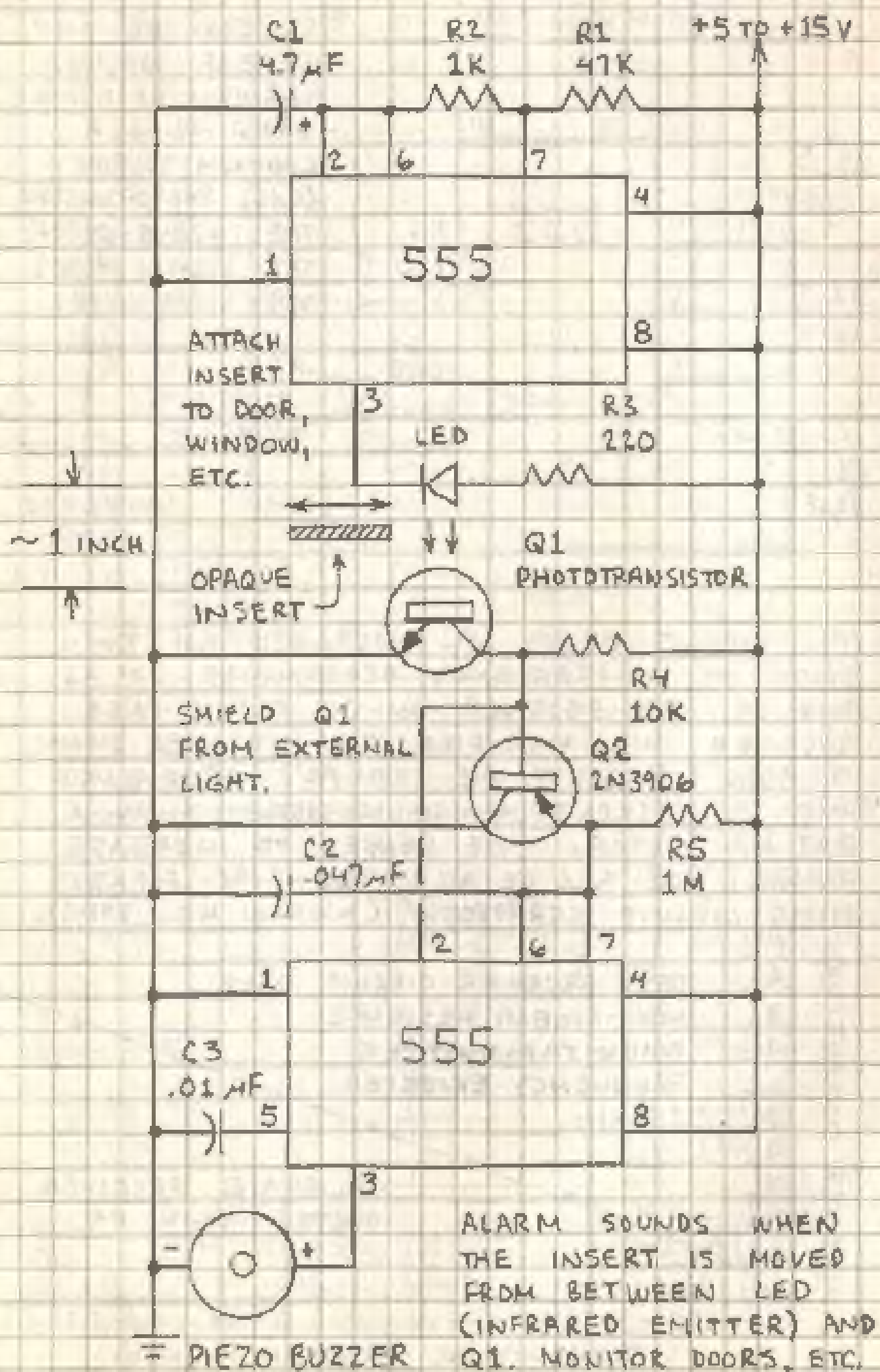


WHEN S1 IS IN POSITION "L" THE SPEAKER EMITS A TONE WHEN LIGHT STRIKES THE PHOTORESISTOR. WHEN S1 IS IN POSITION "D" THE SPEAKER EMITS A TONE WHEN THE PHOTORESISTOR IS NOT ILLUMINATED.



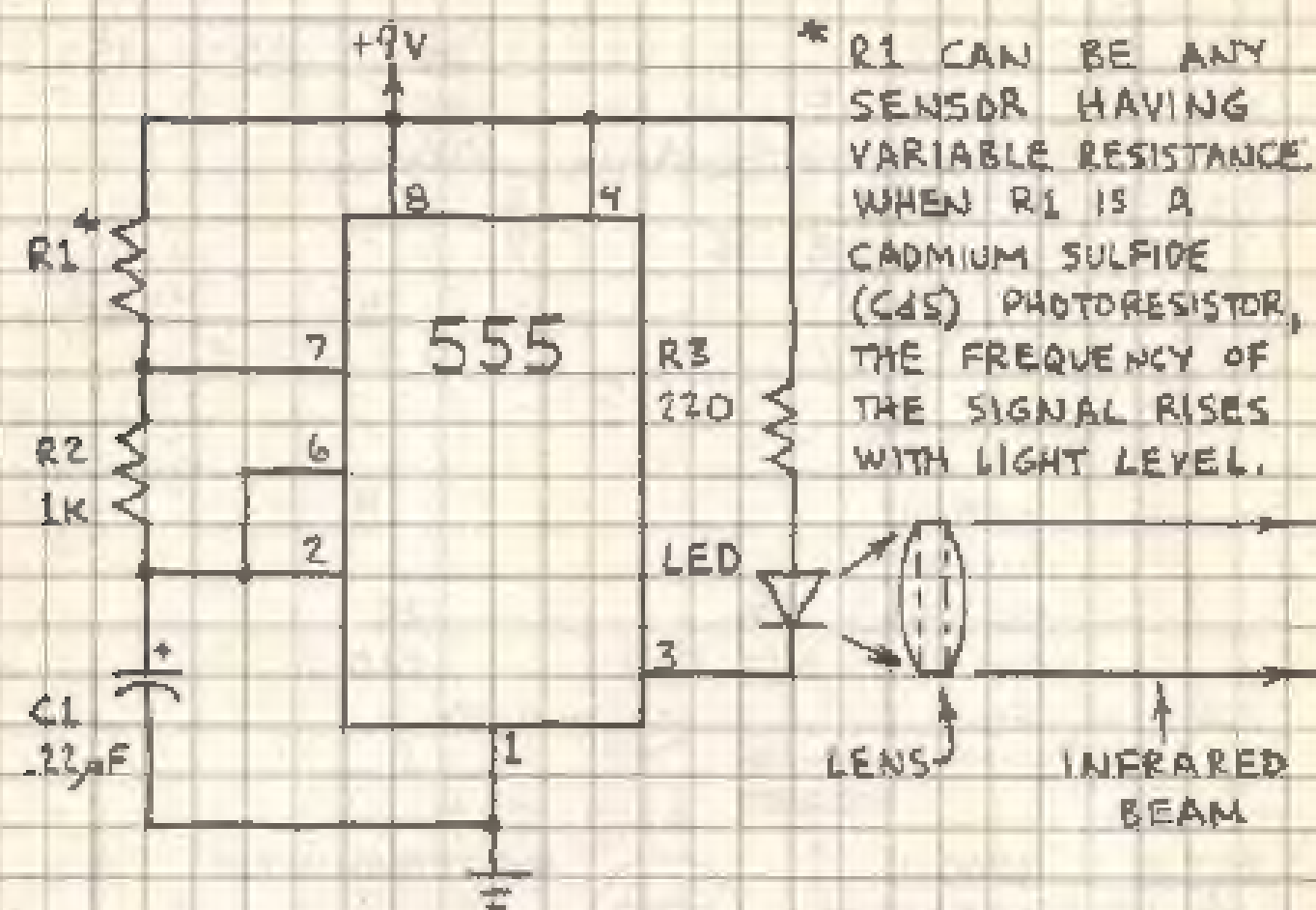
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INFRARED SECURITY ALARM

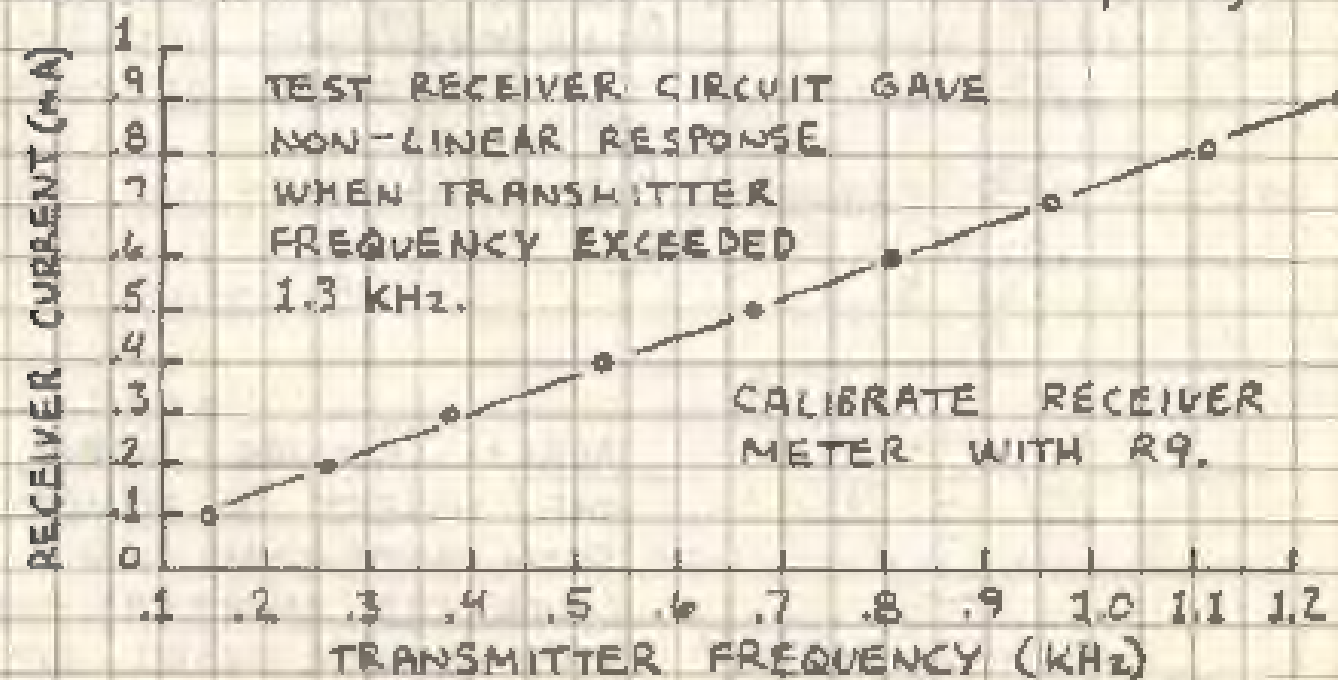


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ANALOG LIGHTWAVE TRANSMITTER

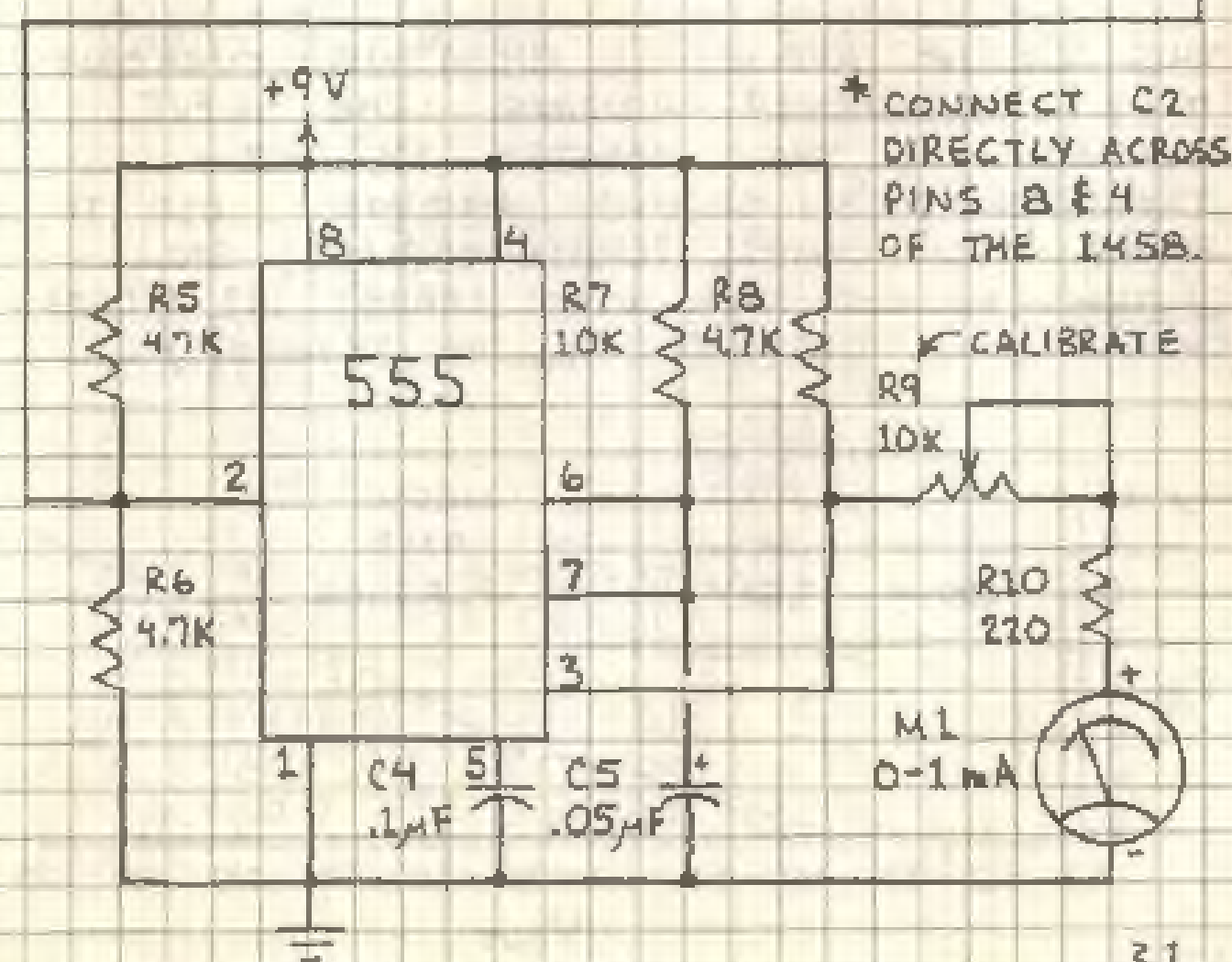
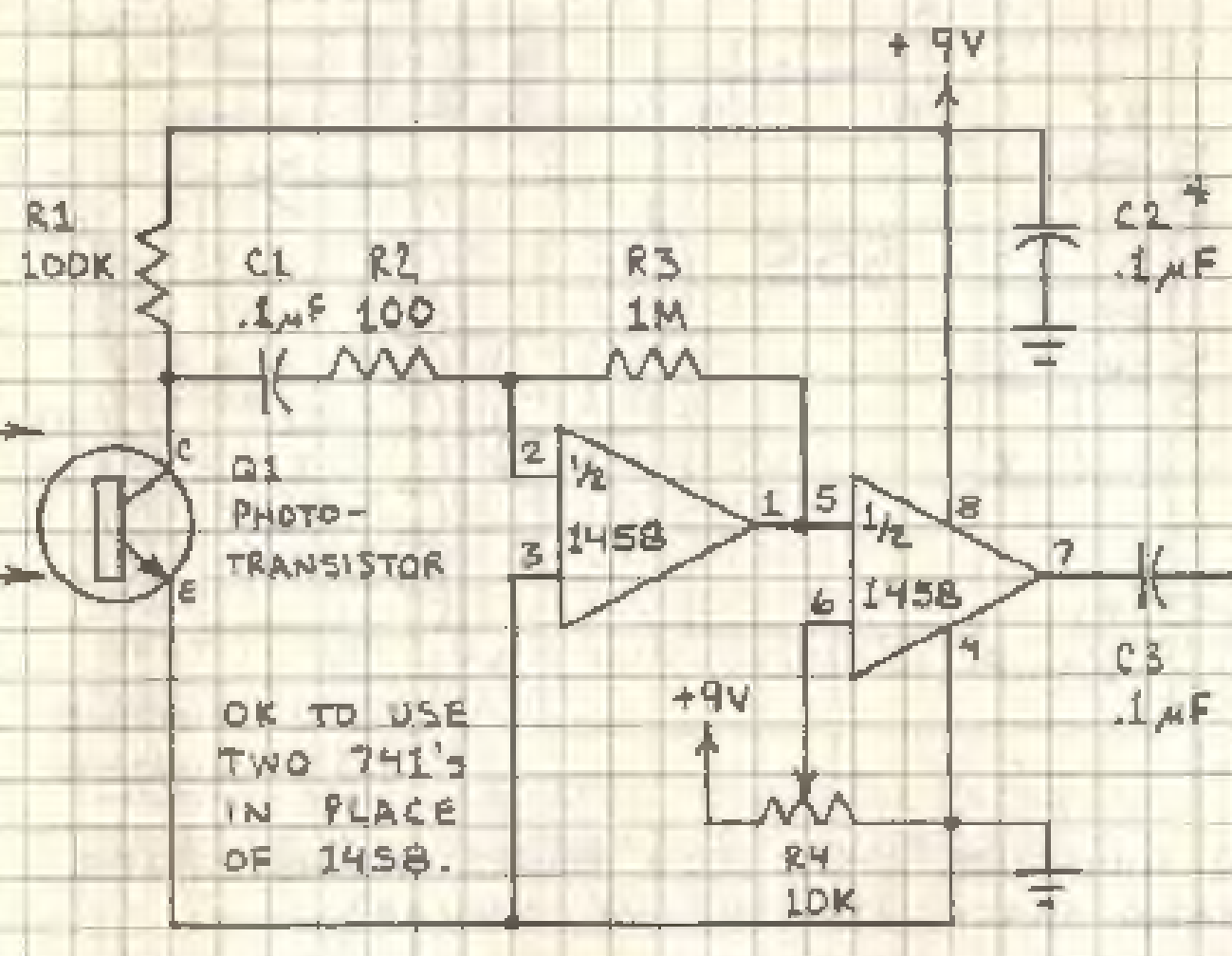


THIS CIRCUIT PULSES AN INFRARED-EMITTING DIODE AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY R_1 AND C_1 . THE RECEIVER ON THE FACING PAGE RECEIVES AND AMPLIFIES THE INFRARED SIGNAL. IT THEN CONVERTS THE SIGNAL'S FREQUENCY INTO A CURRENT WHICH IS DISPLAYED ON A 0-1 mA METER. USE LENSES TO INCREASE RANGE. FOR FULL DETAILS, SEE "THE FORREST MIMS CIRCUIT SCRAPBOOK" (MCGRAW-HILL, 1983).

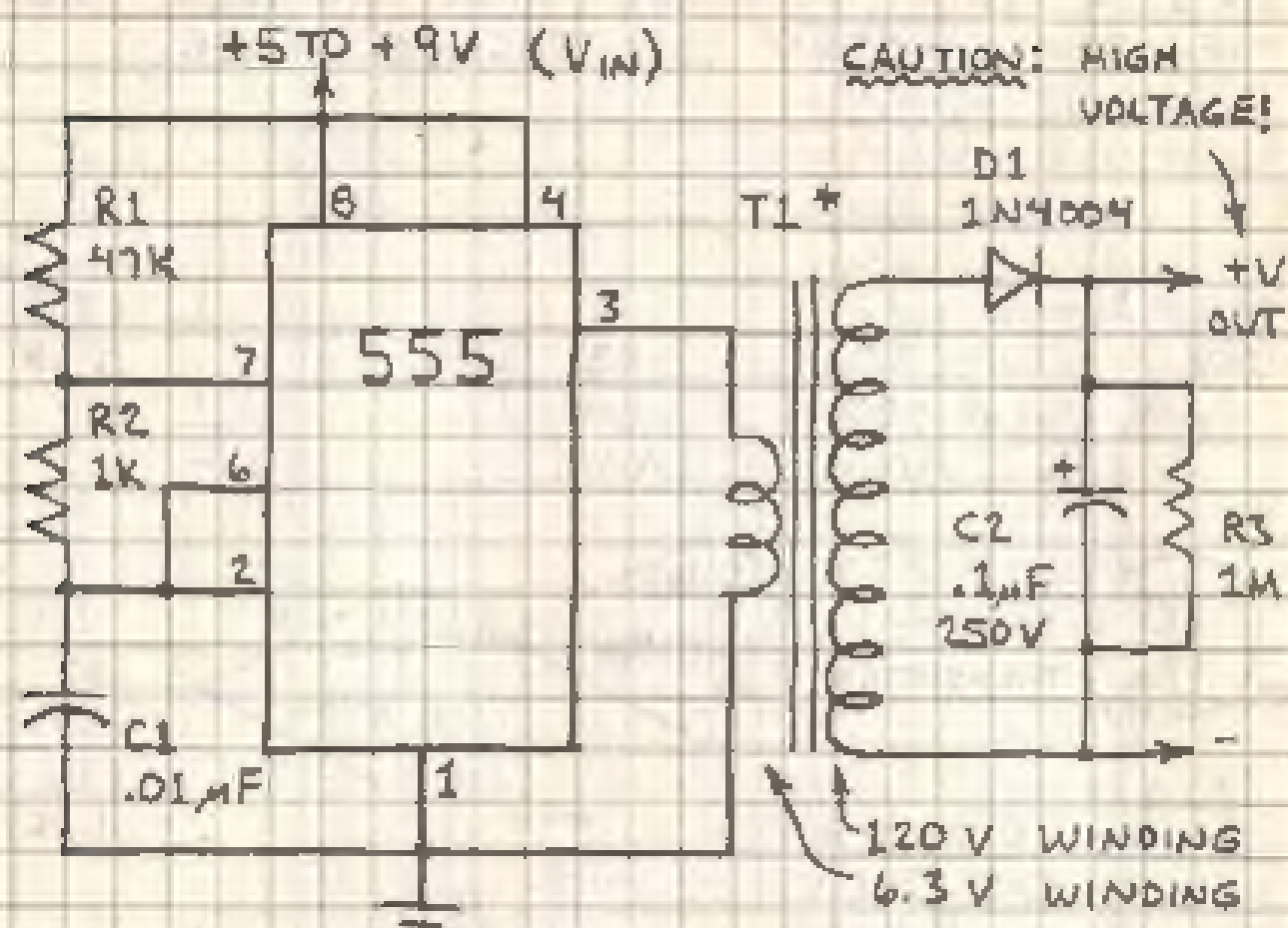


ANALOG LIGHTWAVE RECEIVER

THIS CIRCUIT RECEIVES PFM SIGNALS FROM THE TRANSMITTER ON FACING PAGE.



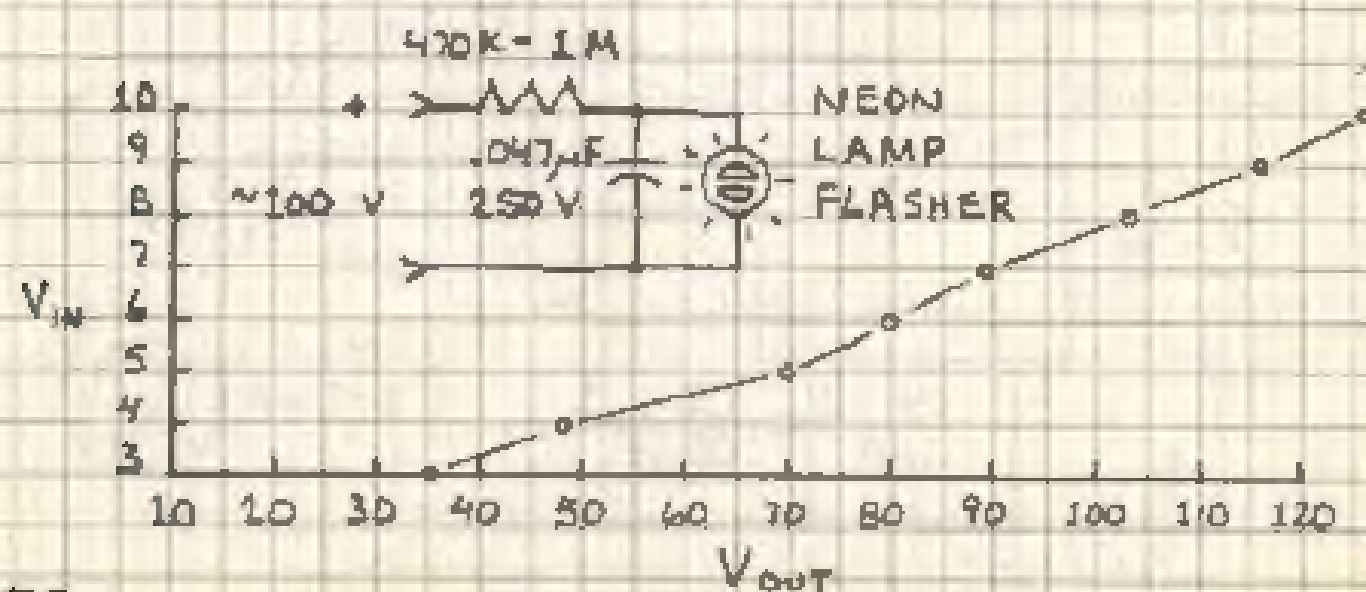
DC-DC CONVERTER



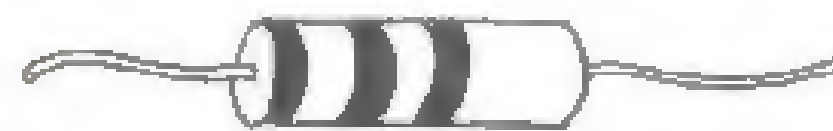
* $T1$: MINIATURE 6.3V:120V POWER TRANSFORMER (RADIO SHACK 273-13B4 OR SIMILAR).

THIS CIRCUIT APPLIES A PULSATING CURRENT TO A TRANSFORMER WINDING. THE INPUT VOLTAGE IS THEN BOOSTED BY THE TRANSFORMER'S SECOND WINDING. USE TO POWER NEON LAMPS, PLASMA DISPLAYS, ETC.

CAUTION: DO NOT TOUCH OUTPUT LEADS! ($R3$ BLEEDS CHARGE FROM $C2$ WHEN V_{in} IS REMOVED.)



RESISTOR COLOR CODE



BLACK	0	0	$\times 1$
BROWN	1	1	$\times 10$
RED	2	2	$\times 100$
ORANGE	3	3	$\times 1,000$
YELLOW	4	4	$\times 10,000$
GREEN	5	5	$\times 100,000$
BLUE	6	6	$\times 1,000,000$
VIOLET	7	7	$\times 10,000,000$
GRAY	8	8	$\times 100,000,000$
WHITE	9	9	

FOURTH BAND INDICATES TOLERANCE (ACCURACY):

GOLD = $\pm 5\%$ SILVER = $\pm 10\%$ NONE = $\pm 20\%$

OHM'S LAW: $V = IR$ $R = V/I$
 $I = V/R$ $P = VI = I^2R$

ABBREVIATIONS

A = AMPERE	R = RESISTANCE
F = FARAD	V (OR E) = VOLT
I = CURRENT	W = WATT
P = POWER	Ω = OHM

M (MEG-)	= $\times 1,000,000$
K (KILO-)	= $\times 1,000$
m (MILLI-)	= $.001$
μ (MICRO-)	= $.000001$
n (NANO-)	= $.000000001$
p (PICO-)	= $.000000000001$